

# [Free essay on asimina obovata (willdenow) nash](https://assignbuster.com/free-essay-on-asimina-obovata-willdenow-nash/)

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## Habitat and occurrence

Asimina obovata (Willd.) Nash is also called as the big flower pawpaw. Its nativity status is L48, describing its native jurisdiction code as lower 48 states and N, referring to it being a native plant. It is endemic to Florida, found specifically in few counties such as Glades, St. Lucie, Manatee, Polk, Indian River, Hillsborough, Pasco, Levy, Flagler and few surrounding areas of central Florida (USDA).

## Work Cited

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Phenology   
A. obovata (Willd.) Nash belongs to the Annonaceae family and grows on coastal sand that is not susceptible to water logging (Kral, 233). It is a vascular, seed-bearing, dichotomous, flowering, perennial shrub that grows to a height of 3 to 9 feet (USDA) (Menges, 4). The flowers bloom between March and May. The flowers undergo basipetal maturation (Norman and Clayton, 18).   
Work Cited   
Kral, Robert. " A revision of Asimina and Deeringothamnus (Annonaceae)." Brittonia 12. 4 (1960): 233-278   
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Norman, Eliane M., and David Clayton. " Reproductive biology of two Florida pawpaws: Asimina obovata and A. pygmaea (Annonaceae)." Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club (1986): 16-22.   
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Pollination and breeding   
A. obovata changes sex from female to male and therefore, is protogynous. This makes it a sequential hermaphrodite. A. obovata transforms from a pistillate flower to a staminate flower with a 1-day gap between the phases, where the flower is completely non-receptive to the process of pollination. However, usually an overlap of both the phases is seen with other species of the Asimina genus (Saunders, 231). The pistillate phase is sexually receptive for 4 to 6 days before the staminate transformation commences (Gottsberger, 250). A. obovata is observed to be xenogamous, which explains the protogyny. Self-pollination experiments showed that only 0-4% of the self-pollinated flowers produced fruits when compared to cross-pollinated flowers (Saunders, 231).   
Pollination in A. obovata is through entomophily. Asimina genus are divided into two types of pollination systems based on the smell they emit. A. obovata emits a pleasant fragrance and is often pollinated by large beetles. Flies and/or small beetles pollinate other foetid smell emitting Asimina species. The large beetles that initiate pollination feed on the petals and pollen tissues. They do not copulate or form their brood on the flower. Beetles such as Notolomus basalis, Typocereus zebra, Trichiotinus rufobrunneus, T. lunulatus, and Euphoria sepulchralis have been observed to visit A. obovata during both pistillate and staminate phases. The staminate phase commences with anther dehiscence, releasing the pollens (Gottsberger, 250).   
Work Cited   
Gottsberger, Gerhard. " How diverse are Annonaceae with regard to pollination?." Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society 169. 1 (2012): 245-261   
Menges, Eric. S. “ Asimina obovata Species Account”. Archbold Biological Station, 2013. Web. 30 Sep 2013. < http://www. archbold-station. org/>   
Pollinators and effect of fire   
Menges observed that Euphoria sepulchralis and Notolomus basalis carried pollen on their bodies after frequent visitation to A. obovata and thus, designated them as pollinators. The fruits of A. obovata are edible, but rarely found. This might be due to the limited number of pollinators, mortality rate or ingestion of fruits immediately after ripening. He also observed the effect of fire on the fecundity. It was noticed that after the fire, the rate of mortality had dipped and the number of flowers had increased, but the flowering rate had declined rather quickly compared to the pre-fire rate. The stems appeared less woody and more herbaceous and green (8).   
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