

THE BOTANISTS' CORNER

PAWPAW *ASIMINA TRILOBA* (ANNONACEAE): A
RECORD OF ESTABLISHMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS

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Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba* (L.) Dunal, is native to the south and central United States (NRCS Plants Database 2018). Although Haines (2011) does not include it in the New England flora, a collection from Connecticut indicates that the species may be naturalizing in at least one location in New England [U.S.A. Connecticut: New Haven County, Branford. Formerly cult. and naturalizing near an adjacent drainage ditch. Along Short Beach Rd (Rte. 142) behind and adj. to Branhaven Shopping Plaza. 3 Aug 1976. *Lefor and Carloni 2356* (CONN)]. Pawpaw has recently become established in Lexington, Massachusetts along the Lower Vine Brook Path. The population includes more than 100 stems ranging from 0.2 to 5 m in height, the largest 5 cm in diameter. It currently covers 160 m² along the south side of the path but stems also occur along the opposite side of the path and a second patch was located 75 m east of the large patch. We observe that this population is a clone, as the stems are of varying sizes and in close proximity and hypothesize that this population was established from one or more individuals planted as landscaping along the paved bike path, based on the presence of one large (7-cm dbh) dead stem. The larger (more than 2.5-cm diameter) stems were flowering in mid-May 2018, and fruit set was observed on June 15, 2018. Immature fruit were present on October 3, 2018. In late fall 2017, Katzenberg observed mature fruit, indicating that the clone has the potential to establish by seed.

VOUCHER SPECIMENS: U.S.A.: Massachusetts. Middlesex County, Lexington, Lower Vine Brook footpath, closest to Brookwood Road; 29 October 2017. *Katzenberg s.n.* (NEBC); U.S.A.: Massachusetts. Middlesex County, Lexington, ca 0.74 mi NE of junction Massachusetts Ave and Woburn Street, 0.27 mi ENE of junction of Grant Street and Saddle Club Road; growing along Lower Vine Brook Bike Path;