# Pawpaw Ripening Chart

**FIRMNESS**
- **Stage 1**: Very firm - yields slightly to moderate pressure
- **Stage 2**: Firm - yields more to moderate pressure
- **Stage 3**: Slightly Soft - yields easily to moderate pressure
- **Stage 4**: Moderately Soft - yields easily to moderate pressure
- **Stage 5**: Very soft - skin breaks under light pressure

**FRAGRANCE (UNCUT FRUIT)**
- **Stage 1**: Light floral / fruity
- **Stage 2**: More pronounced floral / fruity
- **Stage 3**: Very pronounced floral / fruity
- **Stage 5**: Loss of most fragrance

**FLESH**
- **Stage 1**: Opaque, light cream to deep gold*
- **Stage 2**: Opaque, light cream to deep gold*
- **Stage 3**: Opaque, light cream to deep gold*. Pulp sac around seed turning translucent
- **Stage 4**: Opaque, more translucent areas, brown just under the skin
- **Stage 5**: Opaque, many areas of translucence. Mostly brown or pink/tan and becoming mushy.

**FLAVOR**
- **Stage 1**: Delicate
- **Stage 2**: Undeveloped
- **Stage 3**: More developed with mango, melon, banana flavors
- **Stage 4**: Fully developed with mango, melon, banana flavors
- **Stage 5**: Loss of characteristic fruity flavor; sometimes develops caramel-like flavor

**SKIN**
- **Stage 1**: Green with light blue/green florescence on unhandled fruit. Need peeler to remove.
- **Stage 2**: Green, need peeler to remove or cut in half and scoop flesh.
- **Stage 3**: Green, need peeler to remove or cut in half and scoop flesh.
- **Stage 4**: Green or yellowish with predominant brown areas. Can be removed without peeler.
- **Stage 5**: Discolored - mostly dark brown. Can be easily removed without peeler but pulls flesh with it.

**SEEDS**
- **Stage 1**: Firmly embedded in flesh
- **Stage 2**: Firmly embedded in flesh
- **Stage 3**: Loosening within the pulp sacs
- **Stage 4**: Loose and free from sac, or pulp sac containing seeds have separated from flesh
- **Stage 5**: Dislodge from cut fruit with no effort

**USAGE**
- **Stage 1**: Eating out of hand but not much flavor
- **Stage 2**: Eating out of hand, fruit salad
- **Stage 3**: Eating out of hand, fruit salad, ice cream, smoothies, baking, wine making
- **Stage 4**: Eating out of hand, fruit salad, ice cream, smoothies, baking (the product will be darker), wine making
- **Stage 5**: Baking (product will be dark), wine making

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