# Pawpaw Patch Management as a tool to facilitate woodland restoration: Effect of Forest Structure on Fruit Yield

#### Sarah Francino

Contact: francino.1@osu.edu

**Brad Bergefurd** 

G. Matt Davies





#### THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



# Acknowledgements

#### **Funders**

- Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Warner Endowment for Sustainable Agriculture
- OARDC

#### **Collaborators**

- Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association
- Ron Powell
- Chris Chmiel & Michelle Gorman



# **Pawpaw Tree**



# **Pawpaw Tree**



Pawpaw fruit





Patch of pawpaw trees

# Wild Pawpaw Problems

- Low yields
- Variable quality
- Hard to harvest





Clonal patch

# Pawpaw for the Farmer



Pawpaw plot with down tree



# Potential of Pawpaw

Jackie O's Beer and Integration Arce's Pawpaw Pulp



http://jackieos.com/brews/paw-paw-wheat/





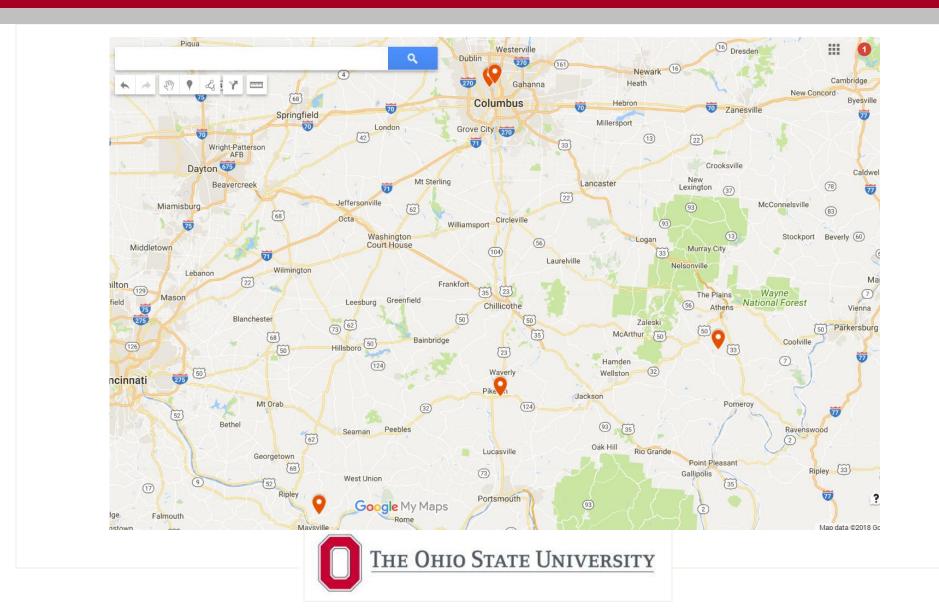
https://integrationacres.com/product s/frozen-pawpaw-pulp-pawpawpleasures-p-44.html?osCsid=ee72c080dec8021

8ed0f9897a1e0c714

# Research Objective

- Monitor 5 field sites
- Tease out similarities
- Implement plans for increasing stand production

# Wild Pawpaw Patches



## Picking Pawpaw Patches

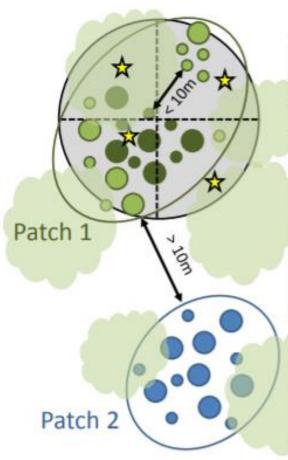


Figure 3: Project monitoring design. Pawpaw trees are shown as colored circles. Those selected for analysis of flowering and fruiting effort are shown in dark green. Different patches are surrounded by a colored oval. There must be > 10 m between groups of pawpaw trees for them to be considered separate patches. Overstory trees are shown in green. Monitoring plots consist of a 20m diameter circle centered on the patch. Canopy cover transects are shown as dashed lines, stars represent soil sampling locations



#### Data Collection



Pawpaw flower



Pawpaw Fruit with disease Phylostica- Common





Larvae of the Pawpaw Peduncle Borer – Uncommon

# Result

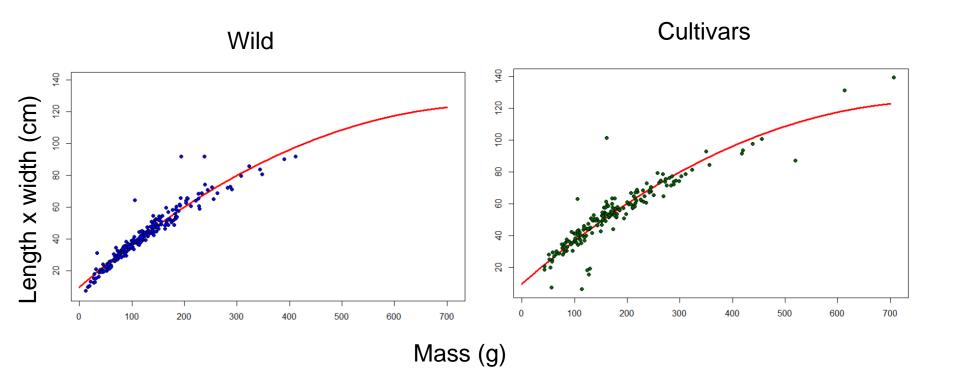


#### Plot-level Fruit Production Over Time



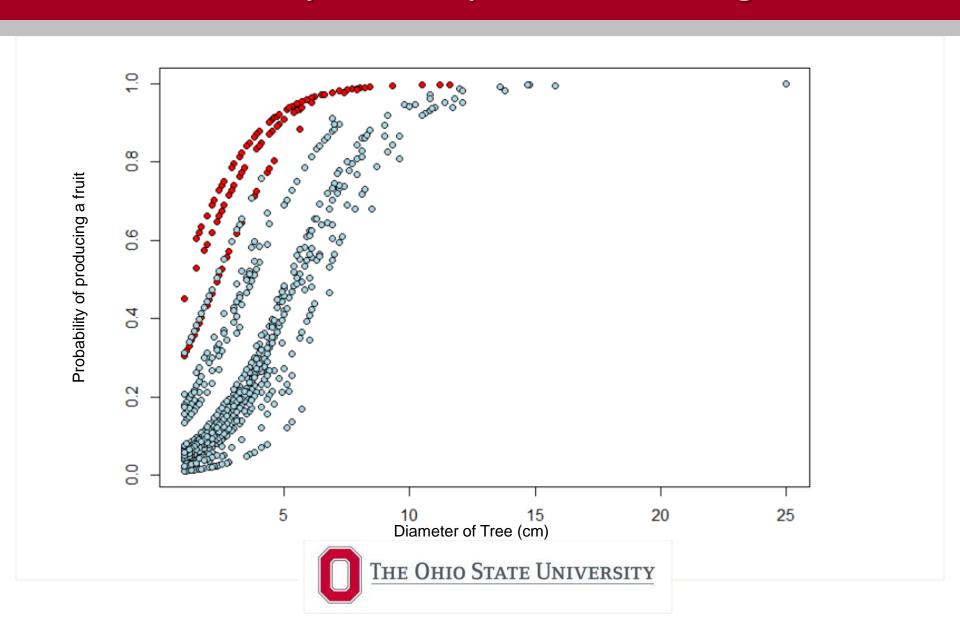


#### Wild Vs. Cultivars





### Probability of Pawpaw Producing Fruit



# Flowering and Fruiting Relationship



# Controls on Tree-Level Fruit Production

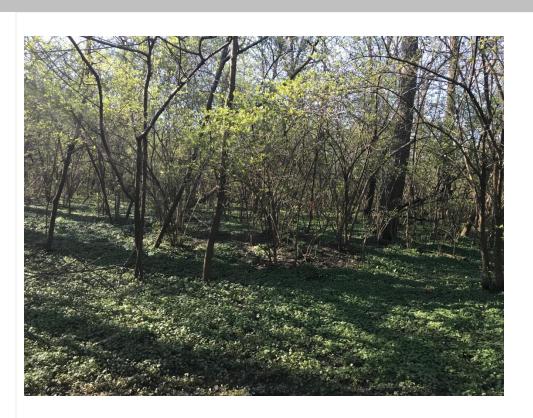


# Controls on Pawpaw

 More likely to have fruit on smaller trees if in the open

- Light availability
- Moisture and nutrient competition

# Management



Before management



After management



# Profit open vs. closed canopy

- 0.38 Acres= 5 plots, 2 hrs/ plot havrvest,
   \$11/hr---\$110 labor
- 100 miles transport, @ .40/c, \$40 transport
- \$100 boxes
- \$1000-110-40-100=750/0.38= 1,973/acre based on piketon closed



# Future Management

- Grafting
- Hand pollination
- Thinning clusters





Immature pawpaw fruit

# Questions

