



In general, a flower has 4 whorls, or rings, of structures. The outermost whorl is comprised of the sepals. Inside or above that will be a whorl of petals. Inside or above that will be the male stamen(s) and in the center will be the female pistil(s). Seeing what is missing or what is extra beyond these 4 whorls, may help us identify the plant or at least the plant family.

***Asimina triloba* (Pawpaw)**

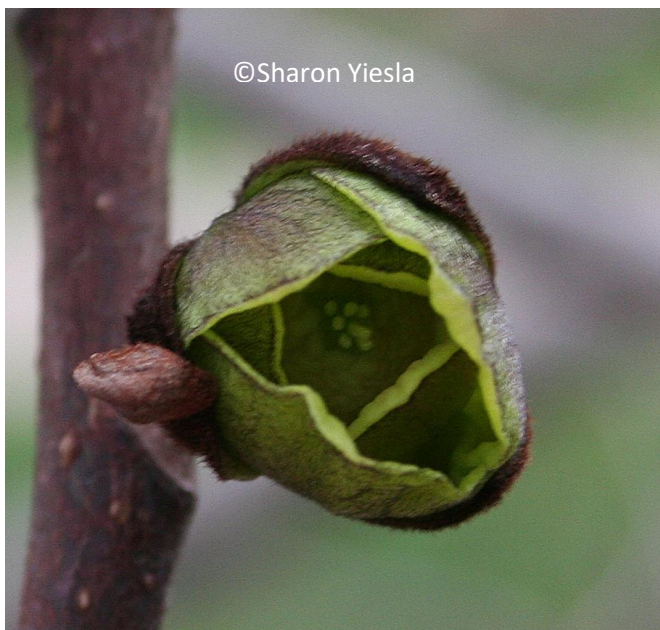
1. As the flower opens, there are three green sepals covered with purple hairs. From these are emerging six petals.



2. The open flower is nodding and the 6 petals turn purplish-brown.



3. Looking into the partially open flower we can see the petals are in 2 groups of 3.



4. Looking into the flower, there are numerous cream-colored stamens, surrounding a small group of green pistils.

