

Kudzu

Pueraria lobata

Extremely aggressive, semi-woody perennial vine

Habitat

- Prefers full sun
- Any soil type
- Forest edges
- Abandoned fields
- Roadsides
- Disturbed areas

Flowers

- Fragrant, purple (or blue) upright or hanging clusters
- Produced in late summer
- Plants in northern climates bloom infrequently, or not at all

Seeds

- Brown, hairy and flattened seed pods
- Up to 10 seeds per pod

Shoots

- Up to 30 vines from a single crown
- 35-100 feet long at maturity
- ½"-4" diameter
- Stems can root at nodes
- Vines can climb vertically 50 feet

Roots

- Tap root: 7" diameter, 6 feet deep-can weigh 400 pounds
- Rhizomes and stolons
- Lethal temperature for roots: -25° F

Growth and reproduction

- Prefers mild winters (40-60° F), hot summers (above 80° F) and at least 40" of precipitation per year
- Vines can grow 1 foot per day, 60 feet per season
- Reproduces primarily by rhizomes and stolons, also seed

Management

- Frequent mowing/cutting/pruning to deplete carbohydrate reserves
- Grubbing/digging: must remove all root material or regrowth can occur
- Herbicides: glyphosate, metsulfuron, picloram, triclopyr
 - * Cut first then treat stump or foliar regrowth

Threats

- Dense foliage shades other plants
- Vines can girdle trunks and stems
- Weight of vines can topple shrubs, trees, power poles etc.

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