

Pueraria montana var. lobata

KUDZU

Fabaceae

Common Synonyms: *Pueraria lobata*

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: Yes

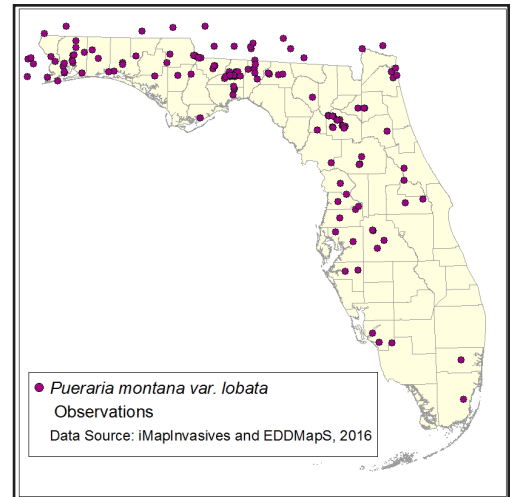
IFAS Assessment

North	PROHIBITED
Central	PROHIBITED
South	PROHIBITED

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5b-11

Growth Habit: Vine

Origin: Eastern Asia



David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Description: Climbing, semi-woody, perennial vine up to 30 m in length. Stems can reach the diameter of 10 cm or more. Leaves alternately arranged, compound. Leaflets three, broad, up to 10 cm across, entire or deeply 2-3 lobed, margins hairy. Flowers 1.25 cm long, purple, highly fragrant, and borne in long hanging clusters. Flowering occurs in late summer. Seed pod brown, hairy, flattened, with three to ten seeds.

Habitat: wet to dry hardwood forest, sandhill, and scrub

Comments: The spread of kudzu in the U.S. is thought to be primarily by runners, rhizomes, and vines that root at the nodes. Kudzu may also spread via seeds. Kudzu can develop a massive tap root. As many as thirty vines can grow from a single root crown.

Florida Introduction Date: 1899

Control Methods:

Glyphosate (5% solution) can be an effective option for small stands growing up poles or fences in residential areas. However, glyphosate is weak on kudzu and repeat applications will be necessary. Likewise, clopyralid is effective on young stands where kudzu is not well established. Clopyralid (21 fl. oz/A or 0.5% solution) is more effective than glyphosate and is safe to apply near trees, but can only be used in selected north Florida counties (see label for specifications). Metsulfuron and aminopyralid are highly effective on kudzu and commonly approach 100% control. Metsulfuron may cause damage to selected hardwoods if applied over the rootzone.

Useful Resources:

Dave's Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: Kudzu, *Pueraria montana var. lobata*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/32107/>. Accessed on June 18, 2014.

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.