

KUDZU

Pueraria montana var. *lobata*
Origin: Eastern Asia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

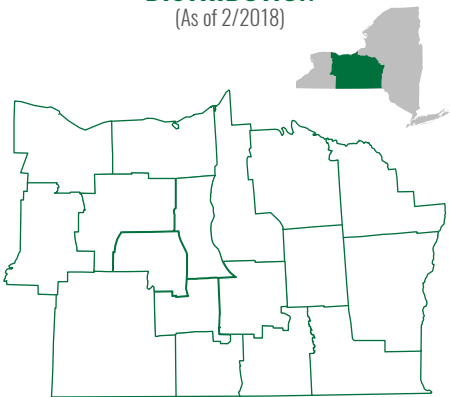
Very High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Physical
Chemical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org

Kudzu is a perennial climbing vine that can grow to lengths over 30 m. It has deciduous, hairy, alternate leaves that are comprised of three-lobed leaflets. Fragrant purple flowers grow in clusters during the summer and produce green or brown, flat, hairy seed pods that are about 6 cm long. Kudzu can also spread via roots and rhizomes.

HABITAT

Kudzu tends to live in open, disturbed habitats including forest edges, roadsides, and old fields.

THREAT

The vine grows rapidly and kills other plants by smothering, girdling, or uprooting them due to its weight.

MANAGEMENT

Prevention is the best management practice to ensure that this species remains unintroduced. Education of the public about practices such as cleaning outdoor gear, as well as timely reporting of sightings, can keep this invasive at bay. The extensive root system must be destroyed for control to be successful. Vines can be cut and fed to livestock or bagged and sent to a landfill. Herbicides can also be effective in controlling infestations.

REFERENCE - Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania, Kudzu. PADCNr. http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010253.pdf



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