

# Invasive Species Alert

## Kudzu

(*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)

\*Detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Vines extend 32-100 feet, up to 30 vines per plant.
- 6-foot-long roots can weigh up to 400 lbs.
- Alternate, compound leaves with 3 broad leaflets.
- Purple individual flowers grow in upright clusters in late summer.



Photo: Jean-Marie Luginbuhl

**Habitat:** This climbing perennial vine can grow well under a wide variety of conditions and in various soil types. Preferred habitats are sunny and open areas.

**Native Range:** Australasia, Pacific islands, temperate and tropic Asia

**U.S. Distribution:** Kudzu primarily occurs in the southeastern states, with reports in Michigan, North Dakota and Oregon.



Photo: Bill Johnson

**Local Concern:** Kudzu grows very rapidly once established and tends to smother and shade out native plants.



Photo: Randy Cyr, Greentree, Bugwood.org

To report this species, visit [www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies](http://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies) for contact information. Report online at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone