# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

# Kudzu
## (*Pueraria montana*)

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

### DESCRIPTION

- Perennial, climbing, deciduous vine that is native to temperate and tropical Asia.
- Vines can grow 10-30 m long and up to 10 cm in diameter.
- Mature stems are dark brown and woody, with white pits in the bark.
- Leaves are alternate, compound with three broad leaflets per leaf, up to 25 cm long and 19cm wide.
- Leaves are pale green above and light to greyish green below.
- Leaves and stems covered in short soft hairs.
- Fragrant pea-like flowers, that are pink, purple, red or blue with yellow centres, appear late June through September.
- Flat, brown seedpods, 5-9 cm long, are covered with golden hairs and contain 3-10 seeds.
- Large root tubers up to 2 m long and 45 cm wide.

**Kudzu leaf**
Photo: Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

**PRIMARY THREATS: Quickly forms dense stands that kill other plants by smothering, cutting off nutrient supplies or creating dense shade. It can also host Asian soybean rust which infects soybeans and other legumes.**

**Kudzu flower**

Photo: Sam Brinker, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

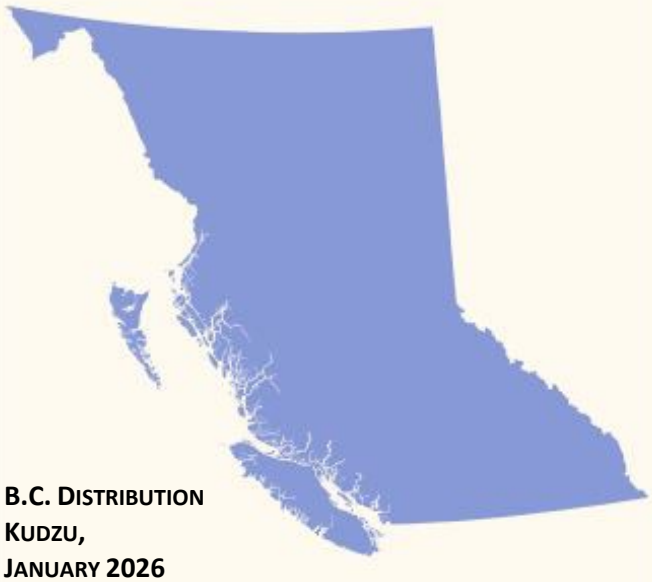
## BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- Reproduces by seed, stem nodes and large, tuberous rhizomes.
- Local dispersal mainly by creeping runners.
- Long distance spread through intentional horticulture and agriculture planting.
- May also be spread by seed via animals, equipment or contaminated soil - though seed viability is poor in North America.
- Kudzu growth rate ranges from 25-30 cm per day, 2 m per week and 10-30 m in a growing season.

For more information:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants

BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)



B.C. Distribution
Kudzu,
January 2026

## Habitat

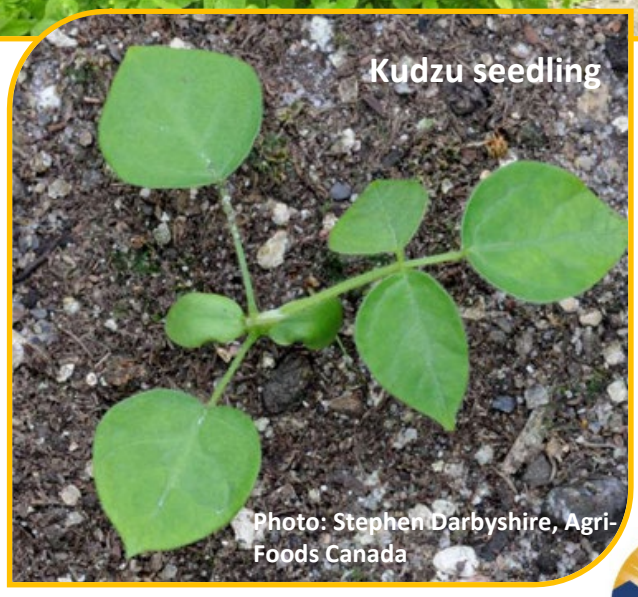
- Kudzu grows in fields, grasslands, forests, pastures, plantations, roadsides, riparian, and urban areas.
- It prefers high rainfall, mild winters, and hot summers and well-drained loamy soils.
- It does not do well in soils that are very wet or with high pH.

## Distribution & Status

- Regulated under the federal *Seeds Act* and *Plant Protection Act.*
- Not yet known to occur in BC, has occurred in Ontario.
- Management goal is to prevent establishment in BC.

Kudzu infestation

Photo: AFIA



Kudzu seedling

Photo: Stephen Darbyshire, Agri-Foods Canada

## Report Invasive Species

**Download the App!**

**www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species**

## What Can You Do?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Check** horticultural orders
- **Know** where soil shipments are coming from
- **Treat** Kudzu before disturbing a site with digging, mowing, or machinery

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