

# INVASIVE SPECIES BULLETIN

## KUDZU

(*Pueraria montana*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Native to temperate and tropical Asia
- Deciduous perennial vine
- Grows 10 to 30 m in length and 0.6 to 2.5 cm in diameter.
- Alternate leaves pale green above, light to grayish green below, with three broad leaflets per leaf (8 to 20 cm long, 5 to 19 cm wide).
- Mature stems dark brown and woody, with white pits in the bark.
- Leaves and stems covered in short soft hairs.
- Pea-like flowers pink, purple or blue with yellow centres appear late June through September.
- Seedpods flat, oblong and brown with golden hairs, and bulging above the seeds (4 to 13 cm long, 0.6 to 1.3 cm wide).
- Large root tubers (2 m long, 18 to 45 cm wide).
- Prefers full sun in cultivated and natural environments, including linear corridors, riparian areas, grasslands and forests.
- Reproduces by seed, stem nodes and large, tuberous rhizomes. Local dispersal mainly by creeping runners. Intentional horticulture and agriculture planting are the primary sources for long distance spread.

**PRIMARY THREAT: Forms dense stands of thousands of single coloured plants covering everything in their range.**



Photo: CFIA  
(Canada Food Inspection Agency)

**REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES**

[www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca)

**1-888-WEEDSBC**



Photo: CFIA

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Kudzu growth rate ranges from 25 to 30 cm per day, 2 m per week and 10 to 30 m in a growing season.

The tubers can grow up to depths of 1 to 5 m, the root mass on old plants can weigh up to 180 kg



Photo: CFIA

#### DISTRIBUTION IN BC

*There are no confirmed occurrences in BC.*



For more information: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm)