

Pueraria montana var. *lobata*, Kudzu

The plant that most conjures up negative feelings towards invasive species has achieved a foothold on southern NY. With over 40 sites in Long Island and the Lower Hudson, Kudzu may already be in CapMo but has not been reported to this date.

Population Status: Confirmed- Lower Hudson PRISM, LIISMA, from MA to TX. HI, OR, WA.

Description: This vine has three leaflets that often have a hairy margin. Vines have bristly orange hairs, like the seed pods which are flat and brown. This species comes with a 'buy-one, get-one' kind of option by being a host to the Kudzu bug, which is an invasive species that can devastate other forms of legumes including soybeans. Kudzu grows up whatever natural trellis is available, from trees to other vines. When nothing is available to climb, it spreads as a ground cover.

Control: Young plants are the easiest to manually remove through digging up the root crown, though this is usually a multi-year effort.

Look-alikes: The closest look-alike to this vine is Poison Ivy (native) which lacks the lobed leaflets of Kudzu.

Flower Time and Description: Clusters of red-purple flowers bloom in the late summer and have a grape-like smell to them.

