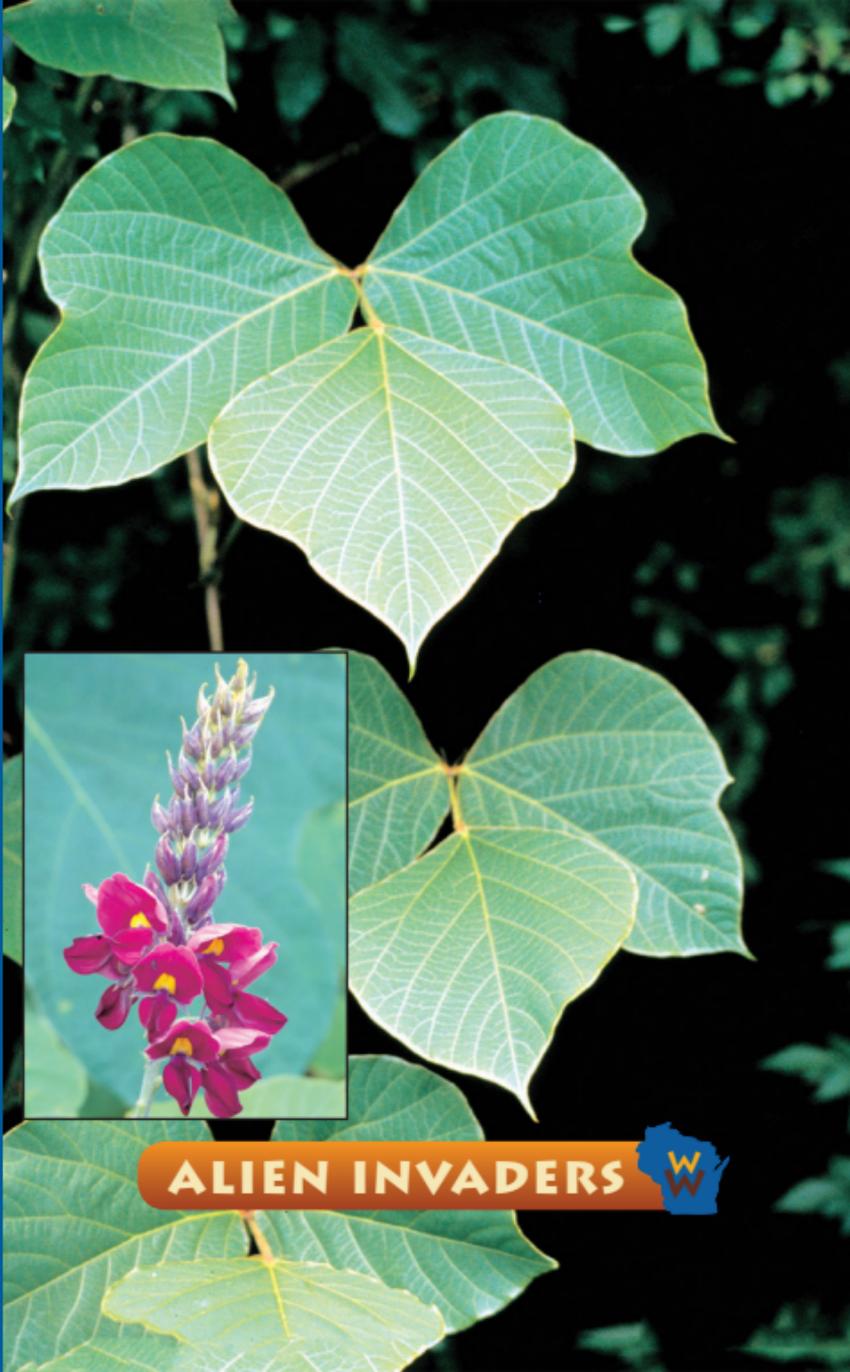


WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



ALIEN INVADERS



KUDZU

Pueraria montana (P. lobata)

BASIC ID

This climbing vine has three fuzzy spade-shaped leaflets 3–4" in length making up each alternate leaf. Large clusters of pea-like purple flowers, with a grape-like smell, appear in midsummer. Fruits are clusters of dark brown, flat, hairy pods that ripen in fall. The stems are velvety, with as many as 30 vines growing from a single root crown. Vines may extend 35–100'. The massive, fleshy taproot can grow to 7" or more in diameter and 6' or more in length.

FACTS

Native to Asia and commonly referred to as "the vine that ate the South," kudzu completely covers trees, shrubs, structures and anything in its path. It grows in forests, grasslands, wetlands, roadsides, steep embankments, fence rows, and abandoned fields. It thrives in sunny, well-drained soils but will tolerate drought and shade. It spreads by seed and by rooting at nodes that touch the ground.

MANAGEMENT

- Cutting, digging, disking, are effective on small populations.
- Prescribed burns/grazing.
- Apply herbicide (foliar or cut-stump).
- Monitor results of all management techniques regularly.

Photos: James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, Bugwood.org
Printed on recycled paper



FR_507_2012

<http://dnr.wi.gov/u/?q=44>