

# UNWANTED BY THE FBI\*

Unlawful growth to avoid extinction; strangulation of other plants; assault on trees, shrubs, branches, road signs, telephone poles, and buildings; purposely blocking sunlight to starve plants and other vegetation.

## KUDZU



Bill Johnson - National Park Service

Aliases: Pueraria montana; lobata; P. lobata; p montana var. lobata; P. montana var. montana; vine-that-ate-the-south; foot-a-night vine; Japanese arrowroot.

## DESCRIPTION

Native Country:	Asia
Moved to United States:	1876
Reason:	Control of erosion and decoration
Current location:	Eastern United States
Habits:	Climber
Family:	Legume (pea)
Growth:	60 feet per season (about a foot per day)
Height:	Up to 100 feet

\***FBI**: The *Foliage Bureau of Investigation* is a fictional agency that provides information about unwanted plants and how to protect our environment from them.

Stem:	Semi-woody
Stem numbers:	Up to 30 per plant
Leaves:	Alternate, compound, with 3 leaflets
Flowers:	Purple; very fragrant
Flower growth:	Long clusters; late summer
Tap root:	7 inches in diameter: 6 or more feet long
Tap root weight:	Up to 400 pounds
Seeds:	Brown, hairy, flat pods
Seed numbers:	3 -10 per pod
Spread:	Runners, rhizomes, vines rooting from nodes, seed germination with pollination
Pollinator:	Giant resin bee
Remarks:	Estimated to cover 2 million acres of forest and perhaps as much as 5 million more of roadsides, hills, and other areas.

### **CAUTION!**

Kudzu is extremely dangerous to the environment and the survival of native plants and trees. It loves open, sunny areas like forest edges, abandoned fields, and roadsides. Kudzu has been known to completely cover hillsides, trees, rocks, grass, shrubs, power lines, road signs and any other obstruction. Its weight can cause trees to fall or split during storms. It strangles by cutting off circulation of trees and smaller plants and starves them by shutting off all sunlight.



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**KUDZU IS ON THE NOXIOUS PLANTS/UNWANTED LIST IN MANY INDIVIDUAL STATES AS WELL AS FOR THE UNITED STATES. IT IS BANNED IN CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS. KUDZU SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A DANGEROUS THREAT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT. DO NOT PLANT KUDZU!**

For more information, contact these websites:

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/354>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/pumol.htm>