

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Kudzu (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*)



Family name: Pea family (Fabaceae)

Native range: Asia

General: Fast growing, climbing or trailing semi-woody perennial vine of 32 to 100 feet long. Stems are up to 2 inches thick. Kudzu has a fleshy tap root that can reach 7 inches in width and grow to 9 feet deep. These roots can weigh up to 180 kg (400 lbs.).

Leaves: Alternate, compound with 3 oval leaflets up to 4 inches across. Untoothed or deeply lobed with hairy edges.

Flowers: Fragrant, purple borne in long, hanging clusters, appearing July to October.

Fruit: Brown, hairy, flattened, seed pods about 8 inches, each of which contains 3 to 10 hard seeds. Ripening in October through November.

Look-alikes: None.



Habitat: Abandoned fields, forest edge, roadside

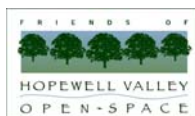
Threats to native habitats: Kudzu is fast growing vine that can spread as a groundcover or climb shrubs and trees. Its dense growth crowds out and completely engulfs native plants.

NJ Status: Kudzu is uncommon in the New Jersey. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.



Commercial Availability: Not found.

Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org>
<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/jpane/icat/browse.do?specielid=23>
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/pumo1.htm>
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 660.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

