

# KUDZU

## *Puerania montana*



Hoosier Heartland RC & D

|                      |                             |                      |                          |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Mature Height</b> | Vines up to 100 feet long   | <b>Soil Type</b>     | Wide range of soil types |
| <b>Mature Spread</b> | Up to 100 feet              | <b>Flower Color</b>  | Purple to Lavender       |
| <b>Mature Form</b>   | Large long Vines            | <b>Foliage Color</b> | Green                    |
| <b>Growth Rate</b>   | Rapid                       | <b>Fall Color</b>    | Green to brown in winter |
| <b>Sun Exposure</b>  | Prefers full to partial sun |                      |                          |
| <b>Soil Moisture</b> | Wide range                  |                      |                          |

Kudzu is thought by most to only be an invasive plant of the deep south but the map below shows known infestations in Indiana. Originally brought from Southeast Asia for erosion control and ornamental purposes it is now one of the most dramatic invasive plants in the United States. Kudzu kills other plants by smothering them under a blanket of leaves and by breaking branches or uprooting entire trees and shrubs through the sheer force of its weight. Kudzu plants grow rapidly, extending as much as 60 feet per season at a rate of about one foot per day. This vigorous vine may extend up to 100 feet in length, with stems up to 4 inches in diameter. Kudzu roots are fleshy, with massive tap roots 7 inches or more in diameter, 6 feet or more in length, and weighing as much as 400 pounds. As many as thirty vines may grow from a single root crown. Long term control requires destruction of the root system either by cutting and removing the crowns and/or spraying with a systemic herbicide. Control takes several years and repeated efforts.



Indiana DNR



Duke University



University of Georgia



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

