

# What to do if you find kudzu...

- This is a priority noxious weed. Report sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately!
- Document sites using landmarks or GPS coordinates, this information is essential for followup investigation.
- Do not plant or use kudzu as an ornamental.

Don't let kudzu  
get a foothold in  
Oregon!

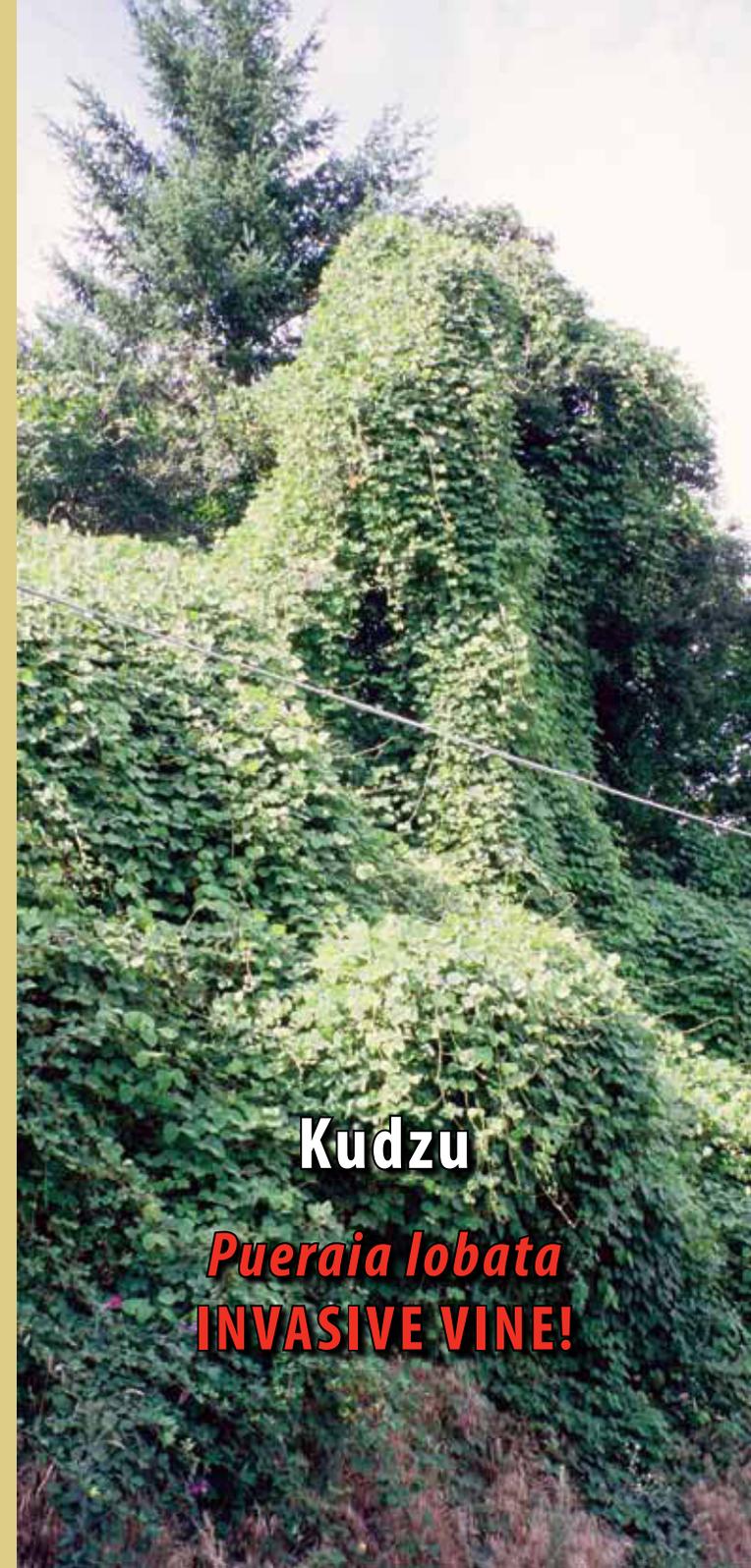
**Report suspect  
sites to**

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Noxious Weed Control Program  
503-986-4621 or call

**1-866-INVADER**

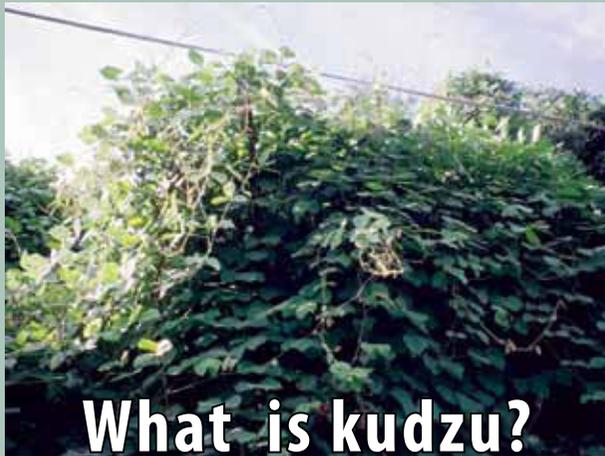


**Oregon Department  
of Agriculture**  
Plant Division  
Noxious Weed Control Program  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem OR 97301-2332



**Kudzu**

***Pueraria lobata*  
INVASIVE VINE!**



## What is kudzu?

Kudzu is a fast-growing invasive vine of the southeast United States. It has invaded tens of thousands of acres and costs \$500 million annually for control and reduced agriculture and timber production. Kudzu has been found at four locations in the Pacific Northwest, three within Oregon. The Oregon sites have been treated, but additional unknown infestations may exist.



## What does kudzu do?

Fast growing vines climb and cover vegetation. Kudzu vines smother trees, causing them to fall from the weight of the vines or die from insufficient light. The vines can bring down power lines and collapse man made structures. Highly infested lands are void of other vegetation, becoming undesirable for timber or agricultural production.



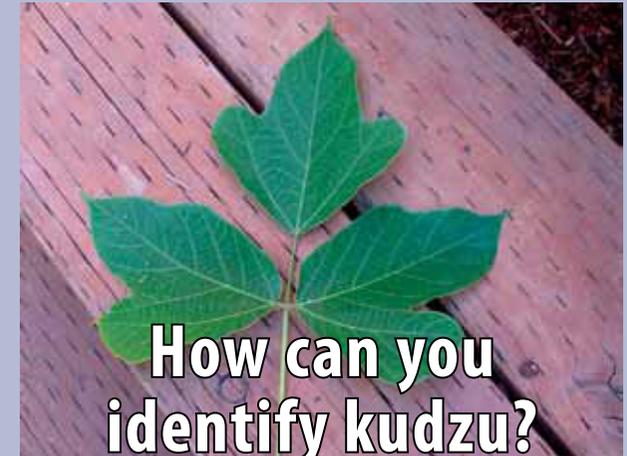
## How does kudzu spread?

Kudzu spreads from rhizomes and by sprouting at rooting nodes on stems and runners. Seeds are produced in pods that contain six to ten seeds each. A low percentage of seed is viable and most reproduction is vegetative. Introduction to the Pacific Northwest was likely the result intentional plantings.

## Distribution in Oregon



- Widely distributed
- Limited distribution
- Not known to occur



## How can you identify kudzu?

Kudzu is a perennial, semi-woody climbing vine in the pea family. Vines extend 50 to 100 feet and develop a main stem up to 6 inches in diameter. Kudzu leaves are similar in size and shape to garden beans with three nearly heart-shaped leaflets. Purple pea-like flowers with grape-like odor appear in midsummer and hang in large clusters. Flowers are followed by dark brown flattened pods. A massive fleshy taproot, weighing up to 400 pounds, can grow to 7 inches in diameter and 6 feet long.

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT>  
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Photographs: Tom Forney, ODA.  
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Contact 503-986-4621 for more information.



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture