

# Have you seen this invasive plant?

Known as “the plant that ate the South”, the infamous **kudzu** has made isolated appearances in southwest Washington and the Portland area.

*Learn more at [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)*



Kudzu leaves consist of 3 oval or heart-shaped leaflets, each 3-4 inches long and often lobed. Both leaves and stems are hairy.

Fragrant purple, pea-like flowers are found in clusters from mid to late summer. Kudzu does not flower until the third year.



Kudzu is a deciduous perennial vine, trailing or climbing for 60-100 feet or more. A single root crown can produce thirty vines.



## Why is kudzu (*Pueria montanta* var. *lobata*) a noxious weed?

- This non-native, aggressive vine covers and smothers all plants and objects in its path. The weight of the vines pulls down trees, power lines and can collapse buildings.

## Where do you find kudzu?

- Kudzu is typically found on well-drained, degraded or eroded land. It will also invade acid-soil forests.
- The only known site in Washington occurred in Clark County in 2001, where 4 plants covered 1,000 feet. The plants were eradicated, and the site was monitored to ensure that kudzu did not come back.
- Three sites have also been reported in the Portland area.

## What can you do?

- Learn to identify this Class A noxious weed. Kudzu is also a quarantined species in Washington, which means it cannot be bought, transported, or sold here.
- Please note that eradication of this plant is required to prevent it from gaining a foothold here.
- Report any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov).