

Kudzu

Kudzu *(Pueraria montana)*

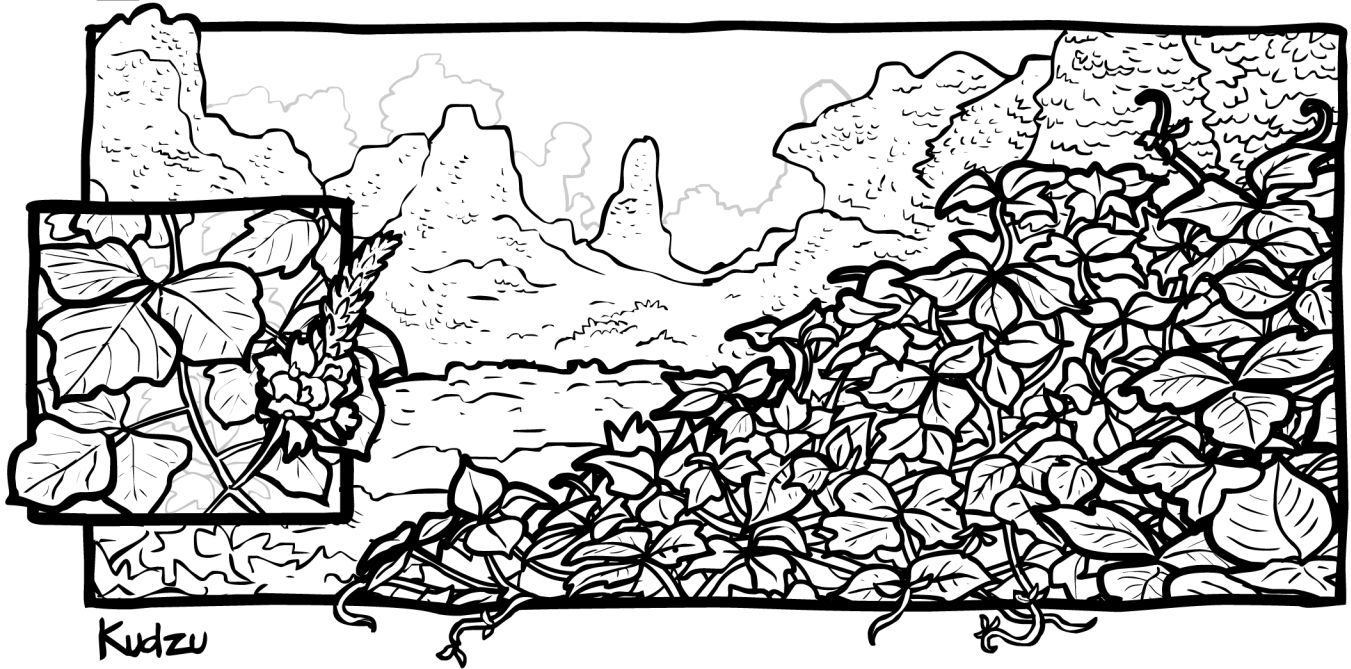
Instant ID

- A climbing vine that often smothers other plants
- Leaves are compound, which means one leaf looks like more than one
- Leaflets grouped in a set of three and may be lobed (have rounded, wavy edges) or smooth and grow up to 4 inches wide
- Purple spikes of flowers appear in late summer
- Seed pods resemble flat beans

Hijacked Habitats

- Native to Asia, kudzu was introduced to the United States at an expo in 1876
- Kudzu was planted as food for animals and for erosion control
- Identified as a pest plant by 1953





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Plant Particulars

- Grows up to a foot a day and can reach 100 feet
- Deep growing roots make it hard to kill
- Tap root (central root) can grow over 6 feet long and weigh as much as 400 pounds
- Covers and blocks sunlight to native plants
- Spreads mainly by rhizomes (roots which start new plants) and portions of stems

Population Prevention

- Although mowing and poisons can kill kudzu, goats have been the most effective
- It can take 8 goats 4 years to kill the kudzu on a single acre
- For removal information, visit www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu

