

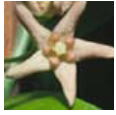


Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Catalog of Species Search Results

Pueraria montana var lobata

(Kudzu)



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

COMMON NAME

Kudzu

FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pueraria montana var lobata (Willd.) Maesen & S. Almeida

FAMILY NAME COMMON

Pea family

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Fabaceae

IMAGES



Leaves



Incursion



Close-up of leaves and pods



Leaves and flowers

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: *Pueraria montana* (Lour.) Merr.
Pueraria lobata (Willd.) Ohwi
Pueraria thunbergiana (Sieb. and Zucc.) Benth.

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* is a semi-woody, rapidly growing perennial vine with stems 2.5 cm (2 in.) thick. It can grow to heights of 10-30 m (32-100 ft.). The dark green leaves are compound, subovate to subrotund, 10-15 cm (4-6 in.) in length, and the leaflets can be 2-3 lobed. They are hairy beneath.

The grape-scented flowers are each 2-2.5 cm (0.8-1 in.) long, and are borne in long, hanging clusters. The pedicels are densely sericeous, and the corollas are reddish purple. *Pueraria montana* flowers rarely, and only after the plant is at least three years old. The fruits are brown, flattened pods that are covered with brown hairs. Each pod can contain 3-10 hard seeds. These pods are 3.1 cm (8 in.) in length and 0.8 cm (0.3 in.) wide.

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* has fleshy tap roots that can reach 18 cm (7 in.) in width and grow to 3.75 m (9 ft.) deep. These roots can weigh up to 180 kg (400 lbs.).

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* is the variety thought to be most common in the Northeast.

Page References Gleason & Cronquist 305, Holmgren 287, Magee & Ahles 683. See reference section below for full citations.

SIMILAR SPECIES

None

REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* spreads primarily via runners and rhizomes. Seed is also a means of dispersal, but many of the seeds in the pods are not fertile.

DISTRIBUTION

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* is native to Japan. In the United States it is located from Massachusetts to Florida and west to Nebraska and Texas. It is also found in the states of Oregon and Washington. In New England it is currently restricted to a few sites in Connecticut and Massachusetts. There is also a population on Fishers Island in the Long Island Sound.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

In 1876 *Pueraria montana* was shown at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition as a forage crop and ornamental. From 1935-1950, farmers in the South were encouraged to plant it to reduce soil erosion, but by 1953 it was recognized as a pest. The first Connecticut record was in 1978.

HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Abandoned Field
Edge
Open Disturbed Area
Roadside
Vacant Lot
Yard or Garden

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* can be found at forest edges, roadsides and disturbed areas. This plant cannot survive without ample sun. It also grows best in areas with mild winters and summer temperatures greater than 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

THREATS

In the South, *Pueraria montana* var. *lobata* is rampant. This vine kills native vegetation by smothering or girdling plants. It breaks branches, and is sometimes so heavy that it can uproot trees by the force of its weight. It grows rapidly, and during the height of the growing season can grow up to 0.3 m (1 ft.) a day. The plant can gain 18 m (60 ft.) or more of length during one growing season.

Due to *Pueraria montana*'s highly aggressive nature, it is listed as a federal noxious weed.

EARLY WARNING NOTES

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* made its way into New England around 1978, and its range here is still restricted. It should be watched for and removed before it spreads further.

MANAGEMENT LINKS

[Conservation Commission of Missouri](#)

[Plant Conservation Alliance](#)

Fact sheet including management information

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Specific photograph or mounted snippet of the leaves and inflorescence.

Best time for documentation: Summer, fall.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Conservation Commission of Missouri](#)

General information including control

[Southeast Exotic Plant Pest Control, University of Georgia](#)

General information and images

[Plant Conservation Alliance](#)

Fact sheet

[Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#)

Fact sheet

[Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council](#)

General information and photographs [PDF]

[The PLANTS Database](#)

General information and a map

[Oregon Department of Agriculture](#)

Photographs and general information

[National Invasive Species Information Center](#)

Additional links

[The Nature Conservancy, Wildland Invasive Species Team](#)

Photographs

[Integrated Taxonomic System Information](#)

Taxonomic information

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DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click 'Selection.'

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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