

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL CONTROL METHODS FOR
KUDZU

Pueraria montana var. *lobata* (Willd.) Maesen & S.M. Almeida ex Sanjapp & Predeep
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DESCRIPTION

Kudzu is a long-lived, semi-woody, vine with long runners that can cover the ground and climbing stems that can grow to 100 feet long and envelop nearby shrubs and trees. The long runners root at the nodes to form new plants. Older stems have a rough, bark-like covering and young stems bear abundant, spreading brown hairs. The leaves are alternate and compound with three leaflets; lower leaf surfaces are sparsely hairy while upper leaf surfaces are mostly hairless. Each leaflet is broadly ovate to triangular, 2-10 inches long and up to 6 inches wide, entire or 2-3 lobed and abruptly taper to a pointed tip. Showy, fragrant lavender to purple or reddish flowers up to ½ inch long are borne in short, dense racemes. Seed production is infrequent because of sparse blooming. The seed pods are 1½-3 inches long, papery and densely covered with fine brown hairs. Seeds are reddish-brown and hairy. Flowering and fruiting August-October.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD

The Noxious Weed Law (K.S.A. 2-1313a et. seq.) requires all landowners to control the spread of and to eradicate kudzu on all lands owned or supervised by them. Methods used for control must prevent both the production of viable seed and destroy the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means. Infestation sites must be monitored after control methods have been accomplished to ensure that dormant seeds in the seedbank do not germinate and establish new infestations.

KUDZU CONTROL PRACTICES

Kudzu control means that both the roots and the flowers must be destroyed. Because kudzu is a perennial, with the exception of herbicide applications, one or more of the following methods must be used together to control kudzu.

Cultural Control

Cultural weed control involves land and vegetation management techniques used to prevent the establishment or control the spread of noxious weeds.

The use of sheep, goats and especially cattle to graze kudzu may be used throughout the growing season. Repeat grazing each year to suppress the plant.

Frequent surveys of fence lines, roadway, ditches and other susceptible areas for new infestations and the quick removal of any new plants will prevent kudzu from becoming established.

Mechanical Control

Mechanical weed control involves the physical removal of all parts or just the reproductive parts of weeds.

As a perennial species, kudzu is difficult to control mechanically.

The only mechanical option for the control of kudzu would be to physically dig out the root crown and all vines in contact with the soil as these will resprout new plants. In larger, well established sites, this would be physically difficult and potentially hazardous. If an area of infestation is cleared, care must be taken to replant desirable species to prevent erosion and provide competition against re-infestation.

Chemical Control

The following herbicides may be used for cost-share with landowners. Other products labeled and registered for use on this noxious weed in Kansas may be used in accordance with label directions but are not available for cost-share. Be sure to follow all label directions and precautions. For additional information consult the most recent edition of the KSU publication of "Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland".

Any two or more of the herbicides listed below may be available for cost-share as a pre-mix or a tank mix if allowed on the respective labels. Contact your county weed program for availability.

Herbicide	Mode of Action
aminopyralid	4
dicamba	4
glyphosate	9
tebuthiuron	7
triclopyr	4

Biological Control

Biological control refers to the deliberate application of a living organism to control the spread of weeds. These agents will not eradicate their host plant, therefore other control methods must be used in addition to the use of biological control agents as part of an integrated pest management strategy. The importation of biological control agents is regulated by USDA-APHIS and is allowed by permit only.

There are no biological control agents available for kudzu.