

***Pueraria montana***

kudzu



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**Appearance:** High-climbing, trailing, twining deciduous woody vine; tuberous roots and rope-like, dark brown stems to 20 m (65 ft) long; herbaceous stems markedly hairy.

**Leaves:** Alternate, long petioled, with 3 leaflets (trifoliate); leaflets dark green, hairy on both surfaces, to 15 cm (5.4 in) long; lateral leaflets unequal at base, 1- or 2-lobed; terminal leaflet usually equal at base and 3-lobed.

**Flowers:** Pea-like, reddish-purple, fragrant; 2–2.5 cm (0.7–0.9 in) across, in short-stalked, elongate clusters at leaf axils, to 20 cm (7 in) long.

**Fruit:** A dark brown pod, flat but bulging over seeds; densely covered in long golden-brown hairs, to 8 cm (3 in) long and 0.8 cm (0.3 in) wide.

**Ecological threat:**

Forms large impenetrable masses, growing over woody vegetation and able to completely engulf unwooded areas. Can completely envelop a tree, killing it by shutting out all light. FLEPPC Category I

**Distribution:** NW, NE, C, SW, SE



**Field Notations**

PUERMONT/PUMO

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>