

Kudzu

Pueraria montana var. lobata



Kudzu is a vine native to Asia. While it has been present in North Queensland for some time, kudzu has only recently been found at a few locations in South East Queensland. For some reason (possibly climatic), kudzu appears to grow much more aggressively in South East Queensland than in North Queensland.

Kudzu can grow and spread rapidly, competing with, and eventually smothering, native vegetation as well as tree crops. The vines can become quite heavy, breaking any plants they happen to grow on.

Left unmanaged, kudzu vines can also damage buildings, overhead wires and other structures. In the United States, kudzu causes an estimated \$50 million damage each year and infests 2–3 million ha of land. If it is not controlled and prevented from spreading further in Queensland, kudzu could become a major pest here as well.

Declaration details

Kudzu is a declared Class 2 pest plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* for the whole state, except the Torres Strait Islands.

A Class 2 pest is one that has already spread over substantial areas of Queensland, and its impact is so serious that we need to try and control it and avoid further spread onto properties that are still free of the pest. By law, all landholders must try to keep their land free of Class 2 pests and it is an offence to keep or sell these pests without a permit. A local government may serve a notice upon a landholder requiring control of declared pests.



Queensland Government

Description and general information

Kudzu is a perennial vine that grows rapidly and can reach 20–30 m in length. Each summer, kudzu runners can grow to a length of 20 m at a rate of about 30 cm per day. Vines can climb up to 30 m, completely covering trees, buildings or other supporting objects.

Kudzu has compound leaves with three broad leaflets, each up to 10 cm across. Leaves are dropped during winter in South East Queensland. The roots of kudzu are fleshy—the taproot can grow to over 1.8 m long, 15 cm in diameter and can weigh up to 180 kg.

Flowers are purple to pink, fragrant, about 1–1.5 cm long and are produced in long racemes resembling pea flowers. Seeds are rarely produced but seed pods are brown, flat, hairy, 5 cm long and each pod contains 3–10 small, hard, oval seeds.

Kudzu generally spreads from stolons or runners, prefers full sun and is generally intolerant of deep shade.



Control

There is no herbicide registered for the control of kudzu in Queensland; however, off-label use permit (PER11561) allows for the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas. Refer to Table 1 for control options.

Prior to using the chemicals listed under PER11561 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit contact your local council weed inspector or visit <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER11561.PDF>.

It is a requirement of the permit that all persons using products covered by off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in that permit. Permit number PER11561 expires on 30 June 2014. While the permit may be extended beyond this date, there is no guarantee that it will, so contact your local council weed inspector for the latest information after this expiry date.



Table 1. Herbicides permitted for kudzu

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Non-crop areas non-agricultural, native vegetation and pastures (Qld) apply by ground-based application equipment only	Triclopyr 600 g/L present as the butoxyethyl ester e.g. Garlon* 600	Rate for knapsack/4WD motorbike: 50 mL per 15 L water For high volume: 330 mL per 10 L water	APVMA permit PER11561 Permit expires 30 June 2014	Foliar spray application Thoroughly wet all foliage to the point of run-off
	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg e.g. DuPont Brush-off*	10 g per 100 L plus addition of a suitable non-ionic surfactant as per label rate		Foliar spray application Thoroughly wet all foliage to the point of run-off
	Triclopyr 300 g/L present as the butoxyethyl ester Picloram 100 g/L present as the hexyloxypropylamine salt Aminopyralid 8 g/L present as the hexyloxypropylamine salt e.g. Grazon* Extra	500 mL per 100 L water or 1:200		Foliar spray application Thoroughly wet all foliage to the point of run-off
	Clopyralid 300 g/L e.g. Lontrel*	2 L/ha or 1:100 with water		Foliar spray application Thoroughly wet all foliage to the point of run-off
	Imazapyr 150 g/L present as isopropylamine salt Glyphosate 150 g/L present as isopropylamine salt e.g. Arsenal Xpress	12.5 mL per 1 L water		Foliar spray application
	Imazapyr 150 g/L present as isopropylamine salt Glyphosate 150 g/L present as isopropylamine salt e.g. Arsenal Xpress	1:1 with water		Cut stem/stem injection/ crowning Apply directly to cut surface of stem
	Picloram 43 g/kg e.g. Vigilant®	Use undiluted		Cut stem/stem injection/ crowning Apply directly to cut surface of stem
	Glyphosate 360 g/L present as isopropylamine salt e.g. Roundup®	1:2 with water		Cut stem/stem injection/ crowning Apply directly to cut surface of stem
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L present as meptyl ester e.g. Starane* Advanced	300 mL per 100 L water		Foliar spray application
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L present as meptyl ester e.g. Starane* Advanced	1:20 with water		Cut stem/stem injection/ crowning Apply directly to cut surface of stem
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L present as meptyl ester e.g. Starane* Advanced	1:30 with kerosene		Basal bark application
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L present as meptyl ester e.g. Starane* Advanced	Use undiluted		Cut stem/crowning

APVMA off-label permit – PER11561: Herbicides for the control of kudzu (*pueraria montana* var. *lobata*) in non-agricultural, native vegetation and pastures (Qld) apply by ground-based application equipment only.

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by persons general.

Before using any herbicide, read the label carefully and always use the herbicide strictly in accordance with label and permit directions.

For successful control of kudzu, the extensive root system must be destroyed. Cattle and goats can successfully graze on the leaves, which allow access to destroy the tubers.

Manual control

Seedlings and smaller plants can be hand pulled. Ensure tubers are all dug up. Bag and dispose of this pest plant at the local garbage dump, but never place in green waste. Wear gloves, as the leaves and stems are hairy and may cause skin irritation.

Herbicide control

Chemical control, such as foliar spray, may be required for larger infestations of kudzu. See Table 1 for details.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Fact sheets are available from Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) service centres and our Business Information Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DEEDI does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.