

Name: Derek Kwong
 Team: Green Goblins
 Username: jason_huang
 School: Jericho High School

Post of my infographic:

Pueraria montana var. lobata, Kudzu
AKA: THE GREEN MONSTER

Kudzu, scientifically named *Pueraria montana var. lobata*, is an invasive vine that aggressively colonizes North Eastern North America's habitats. It disrupts local ecosystems with its rapid growth.

HABITATS
 Kudzu, also known as "The Green Monster," is an invasive plant species that has taken root in North Eastern North America. Originally from East Asia, it has aggressively colonized various habitats in the region, making it a significant threat to local ecosystems.

CLASSIFICATION
 Kingdom: Plantae
 Phylum: Angiosperms
 Class: Eudicots
 Order: Fabales
 Suborder: Feliformia
 Family: Fabaceae
 Genus: Pueraria
 Species: P. montana var. lobata

FEATURES
 Kudzu's rapid growth and extensive vines can shade out native plants, preventing their access to sunlight and other essential resources. It creates dense, impenetrable thickets, leading to reduced biodiversity in affected areas.

BEHAVIOUR
 This invasive species is highly adaptable and can establish itself in a wide range of habitats. It grows vigorously, with vines that can reach up to 100 feet in length. Kudzu can outcompete native vegetation, causing the loss of important food and habitat resources for local wildlife.

CHARACTERISTICS
 Kudzu, or "The Green Monster," is a fast-growing, deciduous vine that can cover and smother native vegetation. Its leaves are trifoliate, and it produces clusters of reddish-purple flowers in the late summer, followed by seed pods. It has a remarkable ability to overtake and disrupt natural ecosystems.

Negative effects this species has on New York ecosystems
 Kudzu, or "The Green Monster," poses several negative effects on New York ecosystems. It outcompetes native vegetation for resources, leading to a loss of biodiversity. Its aggressive growth disrupts the balance of local ecosystems and can even harm trees by making them more susceptible to diseases and insect infestations.

Management strategies to mitigate the spread or impact of this species
 Efforts to mitigate the impact of Kudzu in New York involve a combination of mechanical and chemical control methods. These strategies include cutting, mowing, and prescribed burning to manage and suppress Kudzu populations. Herbicides are also used to control its spread. Regular monitoring and rapid response are essential to prevent further infestations and protect the local environment.

SOURCE : <http://www.iucn.org/speciesname/Pueraria+montana+var.+lobata>
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green_goblins.pgc Introducing 'The Green Monster' 🌿 - Kudzu: The Invasive Invader of North Eastern North America. In New York, Kudzu, or 'The Green Monster,' disrupts local ecosystems by outcompeting native vegetation, leading to a loss of biodiversity. Its aggressive growth even threatens trees, making them more susceptible to diseases and insect infestations. But we're not defenseless. Efforts to combat Kudzu in New York involve cutting, mowing, prescribed burning, and herbicides to manage and suppress Kudzu populations. Vigilant monitoring and rapid response are key to protect our local environment. @TurningGreenOrg #pgc2023

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