

## Kudzu, Mountain and Creek Bottom Region

The kudzu plant, an invasive species from East Asia, has expanded rapidly across much of the South, including eastern Kentucky. This stand of kudzu is on Ky. 257 near Dry-hill (near the overpass of the Hal Rogers Parkway) in Leslie County. Kudzu can grow as much as 60 feet in a season, or 12 inches in a day, and vines may extend to over 100 feet. The non-woody parts are edible. Kudzu also serves to prevent erosion of hillsides, although it can kill plants to which it attaches by blocking vital sunlight. Photo by Bart Davidson, Kentucky Geological Survey.



Below right, kudzu blooming in September in Floyd County. Photo by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.