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## How to get rid of kudzu bugs

I love writing about home and outdoors and hope to help others with my knowledge. Although it is called wine that ate south, it is entirely possible to kill kudzu on your property. My husband and I used the method outlined in this article because of our cottage. You can use the physical or herbicide method to get rid of these plants. USA Kudzu Coverage MapUSDAWhere father people fear Kudzu Plant! all truth I hate to kill something green. Seeing this plant's vining cover over buildings is quite beautiful, the leaves are edible for humans and animals, and widespread planting of kudzu was mostly responsible for preventing a repeat of the dustbowl that ravaged great plains in the 1930s. But there is more bad news than good with kudzu in modern life. The reason people fear having this wine on their property is because it can grow up to 60ft. annually. By the time many property owners notice it is a problem, the plant has begun to take over ground space, cover fences and walls, and replace precious other native plants. A kudzu attack makes it very difficult for people to have food and flower gardens as well. But it is entirely possible to eradicate kudzu. This is the process I recommend, based on the methods my husband and I used to get rid of it. Kudzu Covers EverythingMethod by Kudzu EradicationTo most effectively get rid of kudzu, you will want to use the physical method which involves removing crowns of the plant. Before you start it is ideal to wear boots, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and preferably gloves to protect your skin from pests and cuts from woody parts of the plant. Whether you only have a few vines or thousands, understand a few of them and go towards the direction of resistance. This will tell you where the kudzu crown is located. If you have an entire lawn, yard or vines, you will repeat this process many times.1. Find a Vine Lead2. Cut VinesAs you go closer to the vines you will find intertwined clusters of them. You will have to break these up to clear out the kudzu. I used two methods to cut them. You can choose one or the other, but you will usually find you need both. You can cut along the vine as you prefer to make the job less cumbersome for you. Placing the cut vines on large tarpa means or old carpets allows you to easily move the dirt to your preferred disposal location. One-handed Wines CuttingFor one-handed cuts I used GLC Scissors. These scissors have a very durable spring that allowed me repeated cutting without the tool getting stuck closed. I used these scissors in areas where I needed to lift up kudzu vines to make them tight enough for a straight cut. I used one hand to hold the vines and the other to cut. The scissors cut up to 1 inch in diameter, allowed me to release vine clusters and medium knots with them. The blades remained extra sharp despite contact with both wet and dry soil. Pruning scissors are ideal for people who can bend, lean over, or plan to get close to the plants. Two-handed Vine CuttingAt times I used a two-handed wine cutting method because it took the pressure out of the muscles of my dominant, over-used hand. I used Corona Loppers as they are spring loaded and made it easier to close during repeated use. They were ideal for vines that had to be cut from a distance, and especially for cuts up to 3 inches wide (large bundles of intertwined vines). To use this tool effectively vines already had to be tight as I did not have a free hand to cut them otherwise. These loppers also came in handy for stages 4 and 5. If you need to reach eye level or above to cut vines, it is recommended to wear safety goggles.3. Remove ground-attached sheet music & Expose smaller crownsAs you pull along the vines and cut them you will notice knots or knot-like areas on the vines, every 6 to 16 inches. These odes each have the ability to create their own crown when they touch the earth. If you come on odes that have attached and created roots, tug on them a little, with your hands close to the ground. If they create too much resistance, dig them out using a multi-stranded hoe if they have created a small crown. More crowns are very common. For crowns less than 1-inch in diameter I used a combination Hoe and Cultivator Hand Tiller. This tool is ideal because picks and teeth are rust-proof for years of use, so I didn't have to worry about leaving the tool outside by accident. In addition, the handle is made of solid oak with a rubber gripper to seize lightness so the tool does not slip out of my hands. This tool is a workhorse in kudzu extinction. You can use it to identify the crowns in the ground by knocking the chopping side of the tool into the ground in different places to identify exactly where the crown is. For small crowns, take the cleaved side of the tool and insert the teeth into the soil around the crown. When you have a firm grip around the crown, pull the tool upwards using your body's leverage if necessary to loosen the crown.4. Access larger crownsIf you have a great job to do or have thick and mature kudzu, you will probably have big crowns. As you can see above the crowns look like very large sheet music. To get to large crowns like this cut away all thick above ground growth around the crown using a mutual saw. I used my Skil Saw because I didn't have to be near electricity to use it, and it also came with a wood-cutting sound, ready to use. Use the powered saw for the toughest cuts that will otherwise give you the most manual labor. I love the saw because I was able to use the included power jump charger a lunch break to fully recharge it for 25 minutes. I just went back to work for my next round of kudzu cuts. This one looked so a 10-minute manual cutting hand saw session down to 1 minute. Since attacking and eradicating kudzu is usually a labor-intensive task, it is inextricable to have a powered tool by your side. The saw also came in handy for my husband with his other wood cutting and workshop jobs. To keep the blade clean and free of corrosion, after using it coat it with some WD-40 or motor oil and wipe it down with a cloth. The back and forth saw is again extremely useful in step 5, which is the last step. Follow the manufacturer's eye protection suggestions when using the powered saw.5. Finish: Sever crown from Tap RootSevering the two parts kills kudzu plant. To complete this process: Move extra soil away from the crown and at least an inch below it. You will need to dig more soil depth for thicker plants. Observe the thickness of the root in one-inch or more exposed area. Once you have enough access to tools for the dark male root under the crown, cut it off using fleas or scissors, if light enough, or use the cut-out saw from step 4 again for larger roots. You can find which tool you choose depends on the position the crown is in, the physical leverage you need to remove it, and the size of the root itself. The back and forth saw will be most in need of well-developed crowns and roots, as well as when you are too tired to attack the plant by hand. Cut the crown up with the saw, if necessary, to make it more manageable, cutting off the tap root when accessed. Let the tap root in the soil as it will not grow new kudzu plants. You can simply let it decay by placing staggered soil back on top of it. You can use this process in each area that contains kudzu. As long as you proactively attack this plant as described, you will help keep it from propagation anymore, if not completely remove it. Congratulate yourself for a well done job! The chemical optionIf you want to use a herbicide, the Missouri Department of Conservation Invasive Species Coordinator recommends applying clopyralid herbicide to kudzu during the summer. I do not recommend using chemicals of any kind for eradicating kudzu because you will need a large amount and repetitive applications to keep the plant under control. In addition, you will still need to do the cleanup, and will not be able to plant anything else instead of a number of years. This is because the chemicals required to kill kudzu often make the soil infertile. If you want to plant an edible or pollinator-friendly garden instead of kudzu, questions about potential toxicity also come into play for the soil. There are also serious human health concerns that may come along with using the stronger type of chemicals kudzu would require. This content is accurate and faithful to the best of the author's knowledge and is not intended to replace and individualised personalised from a qualified professional.© 2019 Stove and HomeCommentsStove And Home (author) july 18, 2019:Hello Linda. It shouldn't become a problem for your region for a very long time as your winters keep it from continually growing throughout the year. Unfortunately, it is because of climate change that kudzu has become as bad as it has in the southern United States. Happy climbing! Linda Crampton of British Columbia, Canada, July 18, 2014. You briefly made me check if it was found in British Columbia. I discovered that it is so I may have to follow your instructions to get rid of it one day. Thanks for sharing them. Like you, I will use physical control methods, not chemical ones. If I have to remove the plant. Photo: istockphoto.comIf you've ever been out on a summer evening outdoors only to be startled by an inch long, slow-flying beetle crashing into you, then you've encountered a June bug. The four most common of these members of the scarab family are the green indescent Japanese beetle, the green June beetle, the brown-and-white, ten-lined June beetle, and the brown chafer beetle-and despite their name, they are active in adult form from May to July. The way the clumsily fluttering around may seem kind of comical, but June bugs are no joke to your lawn and garden. As adults, the least on the leaves of trees and shrub-roses is a particular favorite-leaving tattered holes in foliage. But their caterpillar shape, called a grub, does the most damage. Grubs live in the soil and feed on the roots of plants, especially grass. The result is large brown patches of dead lawn that are easily separated from the ground into chunks or mats of turf. You will typically see the damage in late summer when grubs are most active underground. To make sure that June bugs are the culprit, simply lift a portion of dead grass: If you see the slightly curly white grubs in the ground underneath, you know who to blame! Fortunately, once you have identified the problem, you can get rid of June bugs in both their caterpillar and adult stages, often without expensive chemical insecticides. MATERIALS and tools Available on Amazon - Molasses - Large glass glasses - Gardening gloves - Washing-up soap - Mineral oil - Plastic spray bottle - Insecticide for June bugs - Nematodes - Bt liquid concentrate (or powder) - Grub insecticide with neem oilFemale June bugs lay eggs in the grass in mid-summer, so destroying the adults before they get a chance to do it won't only help your bushes look better this season, you will have a head start on a healthier lawn next spring. Set a trap overnight: To attract and effectively drown June bugs, pour half a cup of molasses into an empty milk jug or large jar, add half a cup of hot water, then cover and shake well. Bury the open jar near rose bushes or other plants, like the little son of a bitch leaves only the neck of the jar above the ground. Check the trap every morning and dispose of any drowned beetles. Refill the trap as needed. Catch them by hand: Since these pests generally move slowly, it's relatively easy to get rid of June bugs by picking them out bushes and dropping them into a jar of soapy water to drown them. Be sure to wear gloves when hunting June bugs. Although they don't bite, some species have sharp spikes on their legs that can scratch. Make a natural insecticide: Kill Japanese beetles and other June bugs with a safe, do-it-yourself insecticide. Mix four cloves of minced garlic with a tablespoon of mineral oil and let sit overnight. Then strain out the garlic bits, add the garlic oil to a pint of water, and mix in a teaspoon of mild liquid dish soap. Put two tablespoons of this concentrate in a pint spray bottle, fill with plain water, and spray directly on the June bugs and any plants that show signs of their munching. Attract predators: Many insect-eating birds, toads and snakes enjoy a good meal of June bugs. Encourage these visitors by providing water — a bird bath for birds, a shallow bowl of water for toads and snakes — and safe places where your foraging friends can hide when needed. Birds appreciate the front of shrubs and trees, while toads and snakes prefer a damp, cool, shady place to hide in the heat of the day. A terracotta pot slightly tipped up on its side works well as a toad or snake house. Try a commercial insecticide: If natural methods fail, there are insecticides that kill adult June bugs, along with most other destructive garden pests (see example of Amazon). Since these products generally also kill beneficial insects, it is best to try natural methods before resorting to them. Photo: istockphoto.comStep 2: Avoid damage from GrubsBut adult June bugs can wreak havoc with roses and other shrubs during their short summer sling. It's grubs that will get your grass. Lose the larvae with the following methods. Don't cut too low:Female June bugs like to lay their eggs in short grass so you can deter them by not mowing your lawn too short. Keep the grass at least three inches high during their early to mid-summer active season. Let nematodes fight your battle: Beneficial microscopic worms called nematodes attack and remove grubs in your lawn. You can buy nematodes online or at most large garden centres. Just mix as directed, spray your affected lawn, and let worms work their magic. Bring on bacteria: Bacillus thuringiensis, usually abbreviated as Bt, are bacteria that infect and kill many garden pests, including June bug grubs, but are harmless to humans and pets. You will usually find Bt sold as a liquid concentrate or a powder to spray or sprinkle directly on affected plants and turf. You must reuse Bt weekly if the attack is heavy. Apply insecticide:If insecticide:If methods do not do the trick of getting rid of grubs that are potent insecticides that will. Many are made of neem oil (see example of Amazon), which kills many types of larvae but is generally safe for beneficial insects like bees and ladybugs. If a neem-based insecticide fails, there are stronger, but more toxic, pesticides to try. Apply these late in the summer when grubs are still close to the surface of the soil. When winter arrives, grubs will dig deep underground, where a pesticide is unlikely to affect them. Them.

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