



NJ Invasive Species  
Strike Team

**FoHVOS**  
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

## Strike Team Report May 2021

In April, our Technical Advisory Committee met to determine that status of invasive species in New Jersey. We'll be adding new species fact sheets to go along with existing [fact sheets](#) for our website and app. If you are curious, here are some highlights. Yes, I know it can be depressing but remember that our efforts make a difference! How much worse would it be if we all did nothing?!

### From Watch to Target List

Beale's Barberry, Java Dropwort, Beech Leaf Disease (newly documented in NJ)

### New to the Watch List

Flowering Rush, Vietnamese Balm, Spring Fumewort

### New Species Added to F&W Potentially Dangerous Fish List

Blue Catfish (already detected!), Round Goby, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass

### Selected Species of Increasing Concern

Trifoliolate Orange, Japanese Snowball, Amur Maple

This month's Live and Learn was contributed by Kerry Barringer, an amazing botanist and member of our Technical Advisory Committee. Kerry provides some history and natural history for Kudzu, including reports of 'unique' ways to control it!

We hope that you will consider [a donation to the Strike Team](#) to support our critical work.

Mike Van Clef, Ph.D.  
FoHVOS Stewardship Director  
Strike Team Program Director

Lisa Wolff  
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space  
Executive Director

## Kudzu's Last Stand



Kudzu is a notoriously invasive plant. Some of the known sites in New Jersey have been eliminated – but one site has proven resistant. Near the southern end of the Palisades in Jersey City there is a large patch growing on the steep, rocky slope between Christ Hospital and Hoboken Road. Vines have taken down trees and overwhelmed what was once a large, thriving stand of Japanese knotweed and Tree-of-Heaven.

Quick growing and difficult to eradicate, Kudzu (currently *Pueraria montana var lobata*) can smother large areas, covering everything in sight. It is native to eastern Asia and was introduced into the southern US in the 1870's to feed livestock and later to control soil erosion. It has spread as far north as southern Ontario.



Notoriously invasive, it is also notoriously hard to eliminate. Removing the above ground portions, burning, or spraying with foliar herbicides does not work unless done repeatedly. Plants have deep taproots with hard, fibrous knobs, called crowns, at the top. Vines sprout from these crowns and unless the crown is killed, the plants will resprout. Repeated grazing has worked, as has removal of the crowns and the top layer of the soil with bulldozers. The USDA has found that a fungus, *Myrothecium verrucaria* is an effective biocontrol in certain circumstances.

The Jersey City population may fall to a different method, however – development. A construction boom has hit the city and even lots that were heavily contaminated or considered to be otherwise unusable are now being converted for “Luxury Condos.” Already, there is new construction on the North and East side of the patch and there are proposals to build on the site itself. Maybe one blight will help remove another.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# 13th Annual Professional Conference Duke Farms Coach Barn October 13, 2021

*\*\*As the year progresses, we'll keep tabs on COVID restrictions and set an agenda and open registration once we have confidence that we'll have an all clear by fall. We're very much hoping to see you all!*

## Volunteer with us!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity?  
The NJ Invasive Species Strike Team is the organization for you!  
Visit our sign up genius below to share your interests with us.  
Contact [Ihorvath@fohvos.org](mailto:Ihorvath@fohvos.org) for more information.

[I'm Interested!](#)

**The Strike Team needs your help to fight invasive species throughout New Jersey. By making a membership donation, you directly fund our efforts to keep invasive species at bay and protect our native plants and wildlife. Donate through the link below!**

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## Contributing Partners





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