

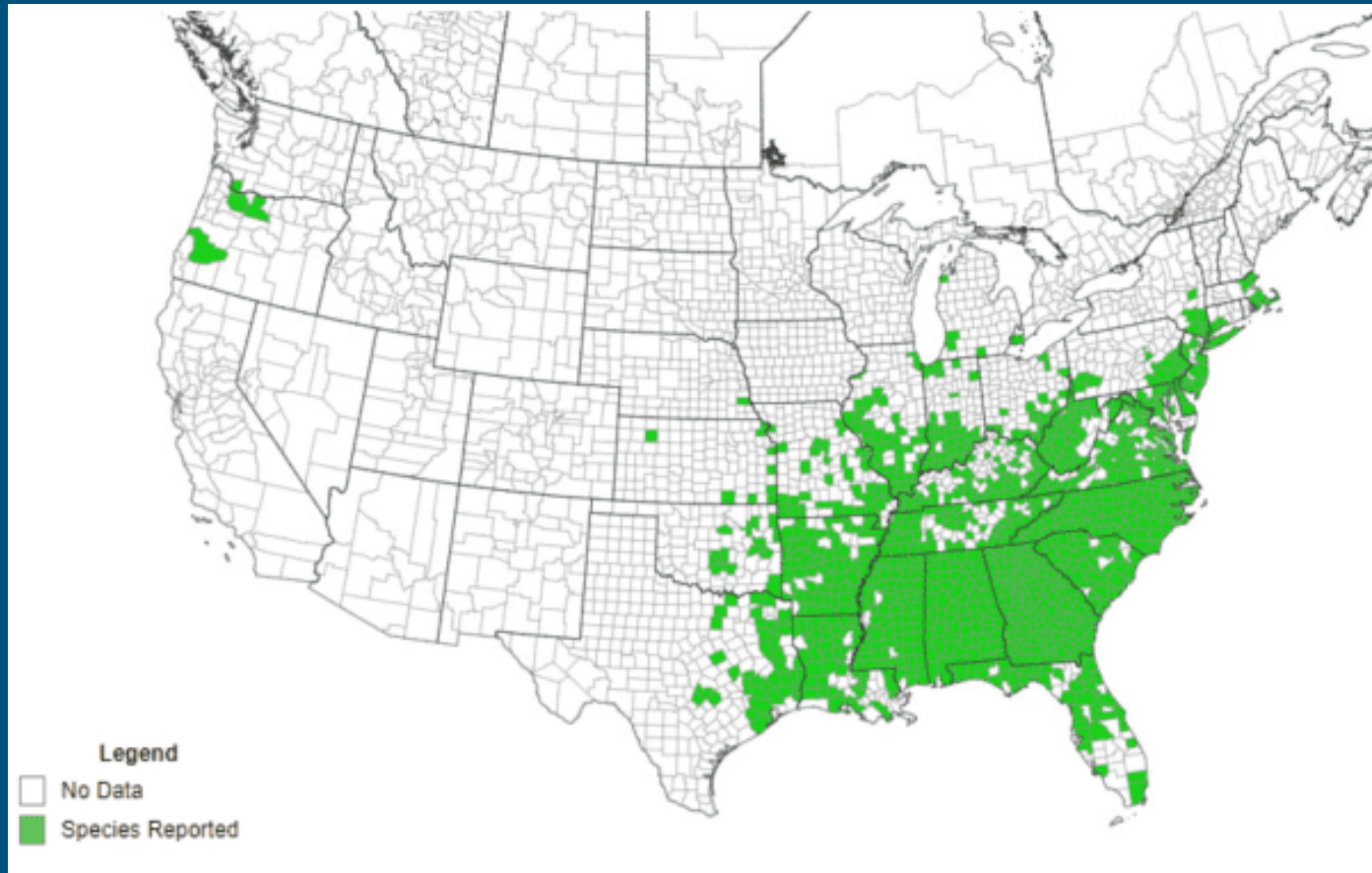
# Kudzu Statewide Evaluation Project



FoHVOS New Jersey  
Invasive Species  
**Strike Team**

Presented by Michael Van Clef, Ph.D.,  
Strike Team Program Director

# Kudzu Distribution - US



# Kudzu Natural History

- Basics

- Vines can reach 100 feet in height; Roots reach 310 feet below ground
- Introduced in 1876, widely distributed to limit soil erosion from 1930's through 1960's
  - Up to 100 million seedlings distributed by USDA

- Existing populations mostly initiated from past plantings

- Erosion control, agricultural applications (forage), and landscape plantings (novelty)
- Roadsides, post-agricultural soils, forest edges
- In NJ, we have satellite populations / hot spots as opposed to a spreading front from southern U.S.
  - Existing populations appear to have increasing vigor in more recent years...this is also happening with English Ivy, Porcelain-berry, and Chinese Wisteria...

- Late season flowering and limited seed production

- Spreads primarily through vegetative reproduction, even in South
- In NJ, flowers in September / October
  - Seeds mature afterward but often frozen off before maturation
  - If seeds produced, arthropod damage reducing amount of viable seeds (?) and seed dispersal distance limited by small mammals (?)

# Kudzu Distribution - NJ

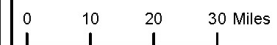
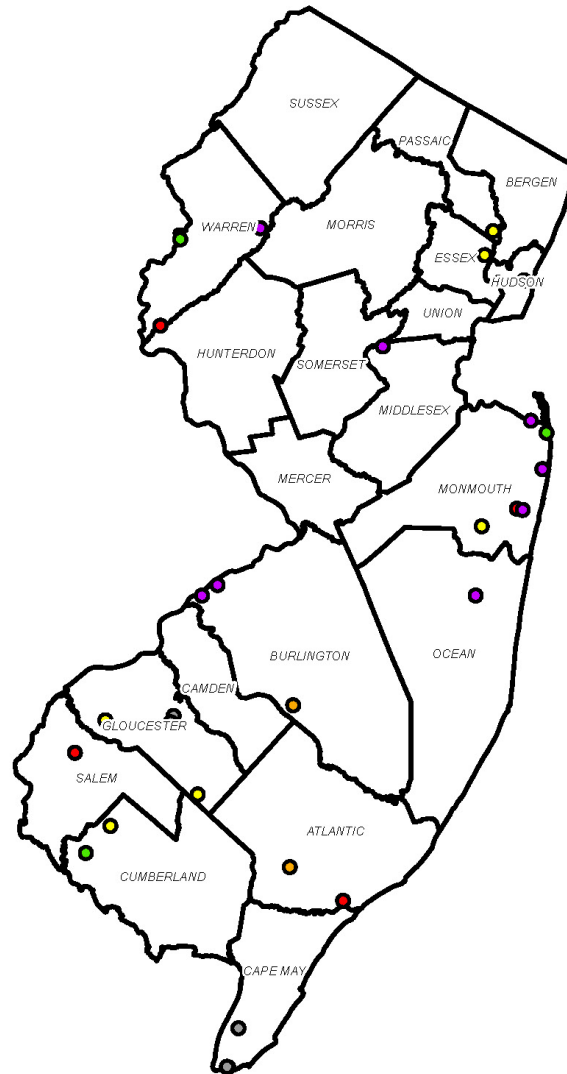


## New Jersey Kudzu Population Assessment 2023

### Legend

#### Kudzu Population Size

- Eradicated
- 2-10
- 11-100
- 101-1000
- > 1000
- Unknown





# NJ Kudzu Eradication Plan

- Confirmed Populations: 27
  - Includes 6 populations considered to be eradicated, leaving 21 known existing populations
- Searching Required: 5
  - Cape May and Bayshore Region
- Eradication Plan
  - Population by population until they are all gone!
    - Excluding two largest populations, estimated total cost of \$75,000 -\$100,000
    - FM Kirby Foundation funding treatment of Red Bank population in 2023
  - Cape May and Bayshore Region- NJ Audubon and USFWS
  - Remainder of State - Strike Team & Other Partners
    - Currently Monmouth County Parks, Essex County Parks, Division of Fish & Wildlife
    - Remainder of State - Strike Team & Other Partners



























