



College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences

Disaster Education Response Team



Kudzu Bug

Karla Adesso and Jason Oliver

The kudzu bug is an invasive pest that arrived in Georgia in 2009 and quickly spread throughout the southeastern United States. The bug was first reported in east Tennessee in 2012 and has been spreading across the state. The bug is a major pest of food and ornamental legumes. Additionally, the bug is a nuisance pest and will seek out overwintering sites in houses and other buildings.

• Identifying Kudzu Bug

- Kudzu bug adults are 3.5 to 6 mm long and somewhat square in shape, olive-green in color with brown speckles.
- Kudzu bug feeds on many leguminous plants such as kudzu, soybean, bean, peanut and wisteria. They can cause damage to new growth of redbuds, yellowwood and black locust.
- Kudzu bug will fly to overwintering sites when kudzu dies in the fall. Bugs are attracted to the color white and may aggregate on homes, cars and other structures.
- Kudzu bug releases a secretion when disturbed, which can be irritating to the skin and eyes of sensitive individuals. Wear gloves when handling them.



Photo © Joe Eger
Dow Agrosience, Bugwood.org

• Managing Kudzu Bug On Your Property

- In home gardens, hand remove bugs or use a pyrethroid product labeled for beans.
- For commercial soybean/bean production, consult extension management guides for monitoring and control of this pest.
- For home invasion issues, ensure all windows, doors, ducts and attic overhangs are sealed to prevent entry; pyrethroid pesticides labeled for structural use may aid in outdoor control; bugs can be vacuumed into a shop vac filled with soapy water and discarded.
- Contact your county [extension agent](#) for additional information.

Always follow pesticide label instructions.



TSU-12-0043(A)-15c-13515 - Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Ms. Tiffany Baker-Cox, Director of Equity and Compliance, 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. Nashville, TN 37209, (615) 963-7435.

