How to Eradicate Kudzu Safely

Prepared for Elsie Ashpole by Jack Harich, Atlanta area, November 1, 2023
Thwink.org/personal/KudzuEradication.htm

Summary

This is a comprehensive article on how to eradicate kudzu safely. By safely we mean safe for people and the environment. Eradication means it will not return on its own.

Complete eradication is not easy, due to the tenacious nature of the kudzu plant. This is because to kill the plant in a single short-term project, *its crown must be killed in place with a safe herbicide or physically removed.* A long-term option is to regularly kill the vines (weekly by mowing or hand methods during growing season, twice during growing season by herbicide spraying or grazing animals) and starve the crowns, a process which takes several years.

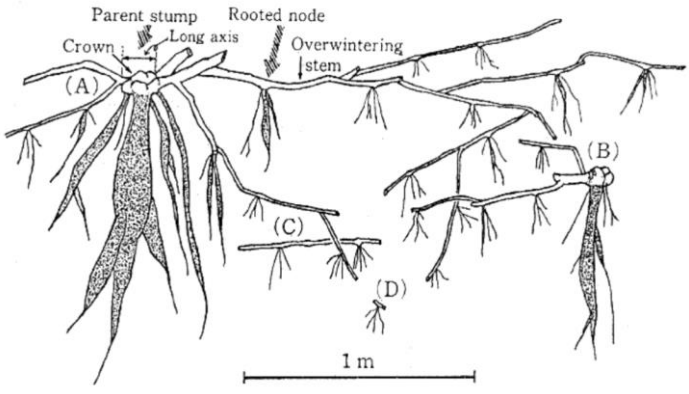
Crowns are a surface or underground bulb-like lump where the above ground vines meet the below ground roots. A crown generates vines and roots. Rooting vines can also grow new crowns, so they must also be removed.

For the short-term approach there are two main steps to eradicating a kudzu patch: Step 1. Clearing the vines away so you can remove rooting vines, see the ground, and find the crowns, and Step 2. Killing the crowns. Each step has several options.

The best overall option, in terms of minimizing labor cost and maximizing safety, appears to be machine clearing and some hand clearing for step 1, followed by locating and killing each crown. If it's a surface crown, simply cut its vines and roots and remove the crown. If it goes so deep you can't see all of its roots, snip off its vines and then apply dyed triclopyr 4 (a safe herbicide) directly (such as by brush) to each snip. Do not spray it on. Some crowns are hard to find and will be missed, so step 2 (killing the crowns) will have to be repeated regularly during the growing season so that you can spot new growth, find the crowns that are still alive, and kill them.

Understanding kudzu crowns

The drawing[1] shows the major part of a kudzu plant. The vines and roots all grow out of the crown. The plant propagates mostly by rooting vines, which form new crowns, which can then produce their own vines and roots. This explains why the only way to kill a kudzu plant is to kill the crown and remove rooting vines.



Tsugawa & Kayama. 1985. J. Japan Grassl Sci 31: 167-176

[1] Drawing from *Lessons Learned from Six Years of Kudzu Research*, by Matt Frye, PhD, https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/69490/kudzu-six-years-NYSIPM.pdf.

This photo (from the *Lessons Learned* article noted above) shows a surface crown. Its vines were previously cut. New vines are sprouting from the crown. Cutting the vines did not kill the crown.

This photo (also from *Lessons Learned*) shows a vine node that has rooted and become a surface crown. The two brown vines are the old vines that contained the node. The numbered green vines have sprouted from the crown. Several roots have sprouted from the bottom of the crown. This shows why rooting vines must be removed for effective eradication.

In this case the crown can be killed by snipping its vines and roots, picking up the crown, and letting it dry somewhere.

This photo[2] show two huge crowns. Crowns start growing on the surface from rooting vines. Crowns grow downward into the soil, where they can better support a large vine and root system, and stay wetter. Large crowns take lots of effort to dig up by hand. If part of the crown is missed it will regrow. That's why it's much more efficient to snip off the vines and apply a safe herbicide to the snipped areas.

[2] Photo from *What to Do About Kudzu*, by Conserving Carolina, 2021, https://conservingcarolina.org/get-rid-of-kudzu.

There are two main steps to eradicating a kudzu patch: Step 1. Clearing the vines away so you can remove rooting vines, see the ground, and find the crowns, and 2. Killing the crowns. Each step has several options.

Step 1. Clearing vines

Methods not discussed are burning, covering with tarps to shade the plant, and ploughing and disking with a tractor. Burning large areas is not permitted in Atlanta. Covering with tarps is not discussed much in the literature, probably because it doesn't work well on anything but very small patches. Ploughing and disking works well but must be repeated, since disturbed or cut up crowns will easily sprout vines and roots.

Option 1. Spraying (foliar treatment)

Herbicide spraying is by far the most common method of (partially) killing kudzu because application is fast and cheap. However, according to the US Department of Agriculture, it "typically takes about 10 years of persistent herbicide applications to eradicate" kudzu.[3] The vines die quickly but the crowns and roots persist, causing vines to grow back. Repeated applications starve the plant.

Interestingly, the article describes a research project that tested integrating herbicides with mowing and planting of a more desirable plant:

> "We didn't just kill the kudzu and leave the soil open for erosion," Weaver says. "At the same time, we achieved a good establishment of a desirable native vegetation. In this case, we planted switchgrass. … With the treatment that involved applying a bioherbicide, mowing, and revegetation, Weaver was able to kill 91 percent of kudzu after 1 year and 95 percent after 2 years.

The bioherbicide is the fungus *Myrothecium verrucaria* (MV). While MV is widely mentioned in the research literature and articles, I could find nothing on use of MV outside of research. Nor could I find a retail formulation of MV. It appears, for reasons unknown, that MV has not reached the ready-for-use-by-the-public stage.

For spraying, two treatments a year work best:[4]

> The optimal timing is in the late summer or early fall. However, a single annual treatment is not sufficient. A better approach is to treat kudzu in the late spring or early summer after the leaves have fully expanded. Then apply a second treatment in the late summer or early fall to new kudzu growth that has emerged after the first treatment.

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[3] From *Combined Control Tactics Remove Kudzu Faster*, US Dept of Agriculture, 2016, about Mark Weaver's research on Kudzu eradication. See https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2016/jul/kudzu/. See this journal paper by Weaver, *Management of kudzu by the bioherbicide, Myrothecium verrucaria, herbicides and integrated control programmes*, 2016, https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/60663500/Publications/Hoagland/2016/Weaver%20et%20al_2016_BST_26-1-136-140.pdf.

[4] From *Kudzu Control in Residential Areas*, 2019, https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ANR-2168.REV_.Lg_.pdf.

Safety of the two most common herbicides for kudzu

The two most common herbicides for kudzu are glyphosate (Roundup, pronounced gli-fo-sit) and triclopyr (various brand names, pronounced tri-clo-peer):

Glyphosate - While glyphosate has long been promoted as safe if properly applied, it is impossible to ensure all procedures are always properly followed. Furthermore, even if they are followed, the chemical persists in the environment and can evaporate and be inhaled, or can enter the human body via water or food. Examining this potential problem:[5]

> Animal and human studies were evaluated by regulatory agencies in the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, and the European Union, as well as the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues of the United Nations and World Health Organization (WHO). These agencies looked at cancer rates in humans and studies where laboratory animals were fed high doses of glyphosate. Based on these studies, they determined that glyphosate is *not likely to be carcinogenic*. However, a committee of scientists working for the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the WHO evaluated fewer studies and reported that glyphosate is *probably carcinogenic*.

Due to regulatory capture, glyphosate is still widely sold in the US and elsewhere, even though evidence of its danger is accumulating. By contrast, some more enlightened nations are beginning to ban the chemical: Austria, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Mexico.[6] Lawsuits for liability for cancer against US manufacturers of glyphosate are mounting. Most recently, "In June 2020 Bayer, which acquired Monsanto in 2018, agreed to a $10 billion settlement as a result of a number of class-action lawsuits alleging that Roundup had caused cancer." (same article) Despite these lawsuits and evidence that Roundup is carcinogenic, Roundup is still sold in the US. This indicates regulatory capture.

Because of this evidence we strongly urge you to not use glyphosate (Roundup).

Triclopyr - On the other hand, the herbicide triclopyr appears safe if manually applied and not sprayed. We found no evidence of its harmful effects on humans, no lawsuits, no carcinogenic findings, and no country has banned it. In particular, a US EPA report[7] concluded that:

> There is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children or to the general population from aggregate exposure to triclopyr or TCP residues. The use of currently registered products containing triclopyr in accordance with labeling required by this RED will not pose unreasonable risks of adverse effects to humans or the environment.

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[5] See *Glyphosate General Fact Sheet*, by the National Pesticide Information Center, http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/glyphogen.html.

[6] From a Wikipedia entry on *Glyphosate*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glyphosate.

[7] See https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/reregistration/fs_G-82_1-Oct-98.pdf.

But we have seen bias in US reports before, for glyphosate. What do other countries have to say? A Canadian report[8] states that:

> Triclopyr is not a carcinogen or mutagen, and workers using triclopyr are free of such risks from the herbicide. The most important concern to workers is skin and eye irritation, which can be avoided with careful work habits.

What about environmental impact? A non-profit organization, Californians for Alternatives to Toxics,[9] reports that:

> Triclopyr and commercially available products containing this herbicide are of particular concern to human health and the environment, due to: 1) potential toxicity from acute and chronic exposures, including eye, skin, respiratory and gastrointestinal injury; 2) potential adverse effects to non-target plants and animals, due to overspray, drift, leaching, and translocation to aquatic habitats from weather and erosion factors; and, 3) the potentially extreme hazard to both humans and animals from exposure to "inert" ingredients in triclopyr products, such as EDTA, triethylamine, and kerosene.

None of these three types of harm occur if Triclopyr is applied to cut vines just above the crown by brush and not spray.

Option 2. Grazing animals

This works well. The US Dept of Agriculture[10] reports that:

> One treatment option for some landowners is livestock grazing. Close grazing for 3 to 4 years can eliminate kudzu when 80 percent or more of the vegetative growth is continuously consumed. All types of grazing animals will readily eat kudzu, but cattle grazing has shown the most success in eradication.
>
> *It is particularly helpful if kudzu is overgrazed in August and September of each year*. Then fast-growing tree species should be established at close spacing or pasture grasses planted and grazing pressure continued for one or two additional years. Grazing requires fencing around the area that is to be eradicated and a source of water, plus supplemental feed to maintain livestock health. Also, vines must be cut from draped trees within the area so that animals can reach the foliage. Kudzu plants that persist after grazing can be eliminated with spot applications of herbicides.

In the Decatur, Georgia area, a company named *Get Your Goat Rentals* brings in a herd of goat to clear kudzu, ivy, or weeds. This 2015 article[11] describes the procedure:

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[8] See https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00017/8-Dost-Triclopyr.pdf.
[9] See https://www.alt2tox.org/tox_profile-triclopyr.htm.
[10] See https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_miller006.pdf.
[11] See https://decaturish.com/2015/07/photos-goats-used-to-clean-up-decatur-metro-atlanta-yards/.

> Murphy said he estimated he had a couple tons of vegetation [in his backyard] that needed attention, so he was surprised when Michael Swanson told him it would only take about *seven days with 20 goats.*
>
> Murphy said in an email, "Michael quoted me $200/day. He showed up with about 30 goats. I figured I'd spend that much renting a brush hog and hiring someone else to come in and do it as properly as these goats are getting it done. It's fun to watch the goats and to see just how much work they do."
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> "Goats have been used for clearing for a very long time," Swanson [from *Get Your Goats Rentals*] said in an email. "Within the past 10 years or so, using goats in residential areas has been catching on as an environmentally-friendly alternative to using large machinery or chemicals to clear. We definitely have a lot of clients in the Decatur area."
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> Swanson said right now his company has 115 goats divided into four herds working in metro Atlanta – three of which are in Decatur. The goats stay on site 24/7 and then move on to the next job.
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> "Goats eat up to 10 pounds of greens per goat per day," Swanson said. "Jobs are priced based on the number of days it will take to clear the property. There is a $250 transportation/set up fee and a $200/day charge for a herd of 20-30 goats."

Goats don't eat all the kudzu. The *Get Your Goats Rental* website[12] says that "Our goats typically consume over 80% of the targeted vegetation, and often, their voracious appetites clear even more, up to 90%." About 10% to 20% of the kudzu vines will have to be cleared by hand, in addition to cutting very large vines (at the base) growing up trees.

I don't know how much of the older or dead vines lying on the bottom of a mature kudzu patch the goals will eat. If they don't eat this, it will also have to be cleared by hand.

[12] See https://getyourgoatrentals.com/why-goats/.

Option 3. Machine clearing

If the land is flat enough, a small brush cutter or large bush hog is *much faster and cheaper than goats*.

Walk behind brush cutters work like large lawn mowers, can cut saplings up to 2" in diameter, and *can cut about ½ acre per hour*.[13] Note in the photo to the right how lots of vines are left on the ground. The model shown can be rented from Home Depot for $126 per day.

Larger, more powerful bush hogs are tractor mounted and work even faster. Their additional power allows *mulching the kudzu vines*, so they are completely cleared as seen in the photo below.[14]

[13] For example, see the walk behind Billy Goat brush cutters, at https://www.billygoat.com/na/en_us/products/brushcutters.html. The photo is a frame (at 0:38) from a video on *Billy Goat Mower versus Kudzu*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSh32pN5xXw. Watch the video to see how fast this goes.

[14] The photo is a frame (at 5:08) from a video on *Bush Hogging Overgrown Kudzu and Devilsweed*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGSpQ2gWN6I.

Study the above two photos closely. The smaller brush cutter leaves vines on the ground untouched, and cuts above ground vines down into short pieces but not mulch. The larger bush hog mulches everything.

The mulching provided by the more powerful bush hog might be a disadvantage. If all the vines are mulched up, how does someone trace a vine to its crown? I haven't seen these methods done before, so I don't know. It's possible there will be enough of a vine left by a bush hog to trace to its crown. Talking to experts, such as lawn companies that handle kudzu eradication, will tell us which is best for us.

Option 4. Hand clearing

Information on this method is scarce, since it's labor intensive and goes slowly. The only quantitative data I found was a volunteer group working on the Stevenson University Greenspring campus in Maryland in 2017.[15] In two hours six "kudzu warriors… cleared an area about 50 ft in width and 30 ft deep. Kudzu vines two inches in diameter were cut and piled in the foreground." This included manually digging up crowns and removing them, which was probably where most of the work went. (That work can be eliminated by cutting vines just above a crown and applying a safe herbicide, which takes an estimated one minute per crown.)

Six people clearing 1,500 square feet in 2 hours equals *125 square feet per person per hour*. Let's conservatively assume that half the work was removing crowns. This changes the speed of hand clearing to 250 feet per person per hour. An acre is 43,560 sq ft, so *one acre would take 174 person hours.*

The work was done by public history major students, who are not experienced manual labor workers, farmers, or gardeners, who could probably do it *at least twice as fast*. In addition, the students probably worked at a leisurely pace and socialized. Half of 174 gives

[15] See *Kudzu, Public Historians, and a Day of Service*, https://www.stevenson.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/history/blog-news-events/learning-the-skills-of-kudzu-removal-without-chemicals/. The photo is from the article.

a rough estimate of 87 person hours per acre to clear kudzu. At $25 per hour for labor, that's $2,175 per acre to clear kudzu by hand. But this is a very rough estimate.

It might help for me (or someone similar) to manually clear a 10' by 10' patch, while inserting nails with pink flags into the ground to mark each crown. Since I'm an experienced farmer, gardener, and hard worker, this would give a more accurate time estimate. Plus, I would be using a battery powered hand pruner which instantly cuts up to 1" vines, and a battery powered reciprocating saw for quickly sawing through vines up to 5". A photo and text show the students used hand pruners, bow saws, and long handled loppers. If a skilled person did this using battery powered tools instead of hand-powered cutters, then we would know about how long it would take for a hired pro to do hand clearing with this technique.

Compared to machine clearing, hand clearing is probably only suitable for very small patches or areas not flat enough to cut with machine, unless a test shows hand clearing goes fast. String trimmers can be used for non-flat areas to cut vines that fluff up or grow up on bushes, trees, fences, junk, etc.

Step 2. Killing crowns

Option 1. Removing vines regularly until crowns die

Estimates for how long this takes run from two to ten years, depending on the method used.

An article on *Kudzu Control in Residential Areas*[16] says that "repeated cutting or mowing must continue until kudzu no longer regrows. This technique may take *two to three years* of repeated mowing or cutting *every week* during the summer." Note how "every week" makes this quite labor intensive.

Livestock grazing can be used to remove the vines. The USDA Forest Service[17] found that "Close grazing for *3 to 4 years* can eliminate kudzu when 80 percent or more of the vegetative growth is continuously consumed. All types of grazing animals will readily eat kudzu, but cattle grazing has shown the most success in eradication."

If herbicides are used, according to the US Department of Agriculture it "typically takes about *10 years* of persistent herbicide applications to eradicate" kudzu.[18]

Option 2. Removing crowns by hand

The Kudzu Coalition is a small non-profit organization based in Spartanburg, South Carolina.[19] "Their mission is controlling kudzu without the use of chemicals. Members have researched the growth patterns of kudzu and use that knowledge to control kudzu primarily

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[16] See https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/kudzu-control-in-residential-areas/.

[17] See https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_miller006.pdf.

[18] From *Combined Control Tactics Remove Kudzu Faster*, US Dept of Agriculture, 2016, about Mark Weaver's research on Kudzu eradication. See https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2016/jul/kudzu/. See this journal paper by Weaver, *Management of kudzu by the bioherbicide, Myrothecium verrucaria, herbicides and integrated control programmes*, 2016, https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/69490/kudzu-six-years-NYSIPM.pdf..

[19] See https://www.se-eppc.org/wildlandweeds/pdf/Fall2008-Morrison-pp7-8.pdf.

using hand tools, mechanical equipment, or barriers." They found that "Most crowns are marble-sized and occur right below the soil surface. [I call this a small surface crown.] With a little practice you can chop the kudzu crown [off] with one easy chop, using a hand prong hoe or the hoe end of a mattock." They call this the "kudzu chop." The "one easy chop" only applies if there is one small root or cluster of roots and you know exactly where it is. If a root is larger than about ½" a kudzu chop won't work, because a hand hoe or mattock is not sharp or powerful enough to slice through it in one stroke.

I'd use the kudzu chop if a node was very small and you knew exactly where its one root or root cluster was. If the roots are visible, snip them with traditional hand pruners or a battery powered hand pruner. The latter is faster, since your hand never gets tired and it cuts vines and roots up to 1" instantly. I've used both on gardening and removing tree roots.

Larger crowns must be dug up to be removed by hand. The larger the root, the more time this takes. I've seen videos where 6" to 12" long crowns took about 1 to 5 minutes to dig up.[20] This seems to vary with soil looseness, expertise, and how deep the crown is. Very large crowns, like those with large vines, would take a long time to dig up.

Digging up small or large crowns is tiring work. You are on your knees swinging a small mattock with one or both hands, and using one hand to remove soil, wrangle the crown around, and so on. To not tire out you need to work slowly and take breaks. In internet searches I've not seen anyone but volunteers or homeowners with a small patch doing hand removal of crowns. The work is so tiring they work for short periods of time, an hour or two. But professionals have less incentive and time to post videos, so they might be doing hand remove of crowns when appropriate.

Option 3. Applying a safe herbicide to crown tops

Once most of the vines are removed, you can see the ground and follow remaining vine pieces to their crowns. Or while removing vines you have marked where the crowns are. As we mentioned before, *if a crown has visible roots*, it's fastest to snip the roots, remove the crown, and put it somewhere where it will dry out and cannot grow.

For the crowns whose roots are hidden, you are now ready for the key step: Applying a safe herbicide to crown tops. A description of the procedure is provided by Trees of Atlanta in an article on *How to Remove Kudzu*.[21] I've inserted comments as needed:

> Follow vines down to the ground until you find the nodes/crown. Use a handsaw [**or another tool**] to cut into the node/crown and treat with herbicide. We use a high concentrate (between 20-50%), glyphosate-based solution [**no, use Triclopyr**] and add in an indicator dye to keep track of what has been treated. Be sure not to spray [**no, use a brush**] the herbicide anywhere but on the woody stem. Treat within 5-10 minutes, otherwise the wound will dry and the herbicide will not be absorbed.

[20] Such as *How to Get Rid of Kudzu - tips from expert volunteers*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-WptQvwJ-c.
[21] See https://www.treesatlanta.org/how-to-remove-kudzu/.

The images below are from the *How to Remove Kudzu* article:

The left photo shows a vine being cut with a pruning saw just above the crown.

The upper right photo shows a cut crown top just after it has been sprayed with dyed herbicide. The upside-down plastic cup concentrates the spray on the cut. But that method of spraying still causes lots of herbicide to miss the cut and enter the soil and the air. It is MUCH better to use a brush or similar non-spray applicator instead.

The lower photo[22] shows dyed herbicide being applied to a cut buckthorn stump, using a long tip to put the liquid on the stump exactly where needed. On larger stumps only a ring around the edge of the cut is painted with herbicide.

This is the "cut stump" or "cut stem" method, widely used on eliminating woody invasive species.

[22] Photo is from a video at 1:33. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=TEf1F9lVF7k.

An article[23] on *Cut Stump Application of Herbicides to Manage Woody Vegetation* applies to all woody plants, including kudzu. The caption for the photo below is "Figure 1. Using an inexpensive paintbrush to apply glyphosate to a freshly cut Siberian elm stump." The article says:

> [Herbicides] rely on translocation (down-ward movement of active ingredient) to the root system through phloem tissue (inner bark). This requires they be applied to the freshly cut surface at the proper strength. Unwanted plants should be cut off close to the ground just prior to treatment. The sooner the herbicide is applied, the more effective the treatment will be. Most labels recommend application within 5 minutes after cutting.
>
> On small stems or on plants that have been cut previously and subsequently resprouted, the bark may be frayed to expose more phloem and potentially increase herbicide uptake. The frayed area should be treated as well as the cut surfaces.
>
> A simple and inexpensive method of herbicide application is to paint the herbicide on with an inexpensive paint brush which can be washed and discarded after use (Figure 1). Always wear long-sleeve shirt, long pants, closed toe shoes, nitrile or latex gloves, safety glasses, and other recommended personal protective equipment as per product label instructions.

For treating kudzu crowns, the cut stem method is:[24]

> Cut the stem 5 cm (2 in) above ground level. Immediately apply **a 25% solution of triclopyr and water** to the cross-section of the stem. This procedure remains effective at low temperatures (<60°F) as long as the ground is not frozen.

This article says the same thing except a dye is used:[25]

> Cut stems at or near ground level and immediately apply **a 25% solution of triclopyr** mixed in water to the cut stump surface, making sure to cover the entire surface. As with basal bark, **a dye added to the mix** will help keep track of treated plants.

Triclopyr 4 in the ester form is recommended.

[23] See https://cales.arizona.edu/extension/ornamentalhort/landscapemgmt/prunning/cutstump.pdf.
[24] See https://www.se-eppc.org/manual/kudzu.html.
[25] See https://www.invasive.org/alien/pubs/midatlantic/control-shrubsandsubshrubs.htm.

Your next steps

As stated in the Summary:

> There are two main steps to eradicating a kudzu patch: Step 1. Clearing the vines away so you can remove rooting vines, see the ground, and find the crowns, and Step 2. Killing the crowns. Each step has several options.
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> The best overall option, in terms of minimizing labor cost and maximizing safety, appears to be machine clearing and some hand clearing for step 1, followed by locating and killing each crown. If it's a surface crown, simply cut its vines and roots and remove the crown. If it goes so deep you can't see all of its roots, snip off its vines and then apply dyed triclopyr 4 (a safe herbicide) directly (such as by brush) to each snip. Do not spray it on. Some crowns are hard to find and will be missed, so step 2 (killing the crowns) will have to be repeated regularly during the growing season so that you can spot new growth, find the crowns that are still alive, and kill them.

Who will do this? I'd guess you have a lawn maintenance company that regularly keeps up your lawns, bushes, and trees. It's possible they could do the kudzu eradication project. However, they might lack experience or be biased toward spraying since nearly all lawn maintenance companies spray to control weeds.

Searching the internet, I found only one company with the required expertise. SCS Tree Service bills themselves as "Atlanta Kudzu Removal Experts." [26]

> [We] know how to not only remove the vines, but also how to get to *the root crown* in order to prevent it from coming back. This is an important part of our service that cannot be overstated. *Many other so-called experts will simply remove the vines,* leaving the root crown to grow right back within a year. Our Kudzu removal experts will get to the root of this invasive species and prevent it from growing again.

Note how this service take the same two step approach this article does: (1) Remove the vines, (2) Kill the crowns. Their website doesn't state how they remove the vines or how they kill the crowns. You can specify how to do that safely by giving SCS Tree Service, your lawn service company, or someone else a copy of this article.

There are a few other considerations. After the vines are removed, grass need to be planted. After your kudzu patch is eradicated, if your neighbors don't the same you will have to regularly cut encroaching vines during the growing season.

As I was researching to write this article, I was struck by how opinions on what to do differed and how incomplete or frequently wrong and unsafe they were. Different people have different incentives and different levels of knowledge on the subject. Hopefully this article has turned a maze of confusion into a clear, evidence-based picture of the true situation and your options.

[26] See https://www.scstrees.com/grading-and-cleanup-services/atlanta-kudzu-removal-experts/. Further searching may find more.