A Kudzu Primer

Miracle Plant, Dangerous Beauty;
An Invasive Species

John Peter Thompson
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MISC - BARC
The Gypsy Moth of the Plant World

Gypsy moth picture: http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3511/3840972959_cd03ee1fcd_o.jpg;
Kudzu picture: http://image05.webshots.com/5/3/12/70/81831270kgWmoc_fs.jpg
Dynamics of Perspective

1664
- RUMOR of a MIRACLE

1873
- PATHWAYS to the PEOPLE

1902
- RESEARCH the POSSIBILITIES

1933
- INTRODUCTION

1952
- ESTABLISHMENT

1973
- REFLECTION on SUCCESS

1995
- CREATION of a VILLAIN

2025
- NATURALIZATION
What is in a Name?

Synonyms from: Nat

- *Dolichos hirsutus* Thunb.
- *Dolichos lobatus* Willd.
- *Glycine javanica* L.
- *Neustanthus chinensis* Benth.
- *Pachyrhizus thunbergianus* Siebold & Zucc.
- *Pueraria hirsuta* (Thunb.) Matsum.
- *Pueraria lobata* (Willd.) Ohwi
- *Pueraria lobata var. chinensis* (Benth.) Ohwi
- *Pueraria lobata var. montana* (Lour.) Maesen
- *Pueraria lobata var. thomsonii* (Benth.) Maesen
- *Pueraria montana var. chinensis* auct
- *Pueraria thomsonii* Benth.
- *Pueraria thunbergiana* (Siebold & Zucc.) Benth.
- *Pueraria tonkinensis* Gagnep.
- *Pueraria triloba* (Houtt.)

Martinus Martini  born in 1614 at Trent (Southern Tyrol, Austria.). He arrived in China 1643, returned in 1653 to Europe by way of Batavia and landed at Amsterdam, where he made arrangements for publishing his work. After this he proceeded to China again and died at Hang chou fu (Che kiang) in 1661.
A Quest for Human Well-Being

By Wing Ming Keung

LeComte 1698
Cunningham 1703-1704
Staunton 1793
Voisin 1824
Carles 1567
American Degeneracy

Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (7 September 1707 – 16 April 1788)

Carl Nilsson Linnæus, Carl von Linné (23 May 1707 – 10 January 1778)
Daniel Hooibrenk.— From 1837 to 1849 he had charge of the famous collection of Baron Hügel’s plants. When the collection of plants was dispersed, M. Hooibrenk started with a part of it as nurseryman, and his work in gardening is well known. He was nominated by His Majesty the Emperor of Austria Knight of the Franz Josef’s Order, and Napoleon III conferred on him the Order of the Legion of Honour for a treatise on the cultivation of the Vine.— excerpted from Louis Kropatsch.
Thomas Hogg (1820-1892) was born in England. His father, also Thomas, established a nursery in New York, later run by the younger Thomas’s brother James, a connection which was to prove useful later in his life. In 1862 Thomas, junior, was appointed a US Marshal and in the same year he went to Japan in that role, staying there until 1870, and returning there from 1873 to 1875. During these tours of duty he acquired and sent to his brother’s nursery a wide selection of plants including the first introductions, at least to the United States, of *Hosta decorata*, *Stuartia pseudocamellia*, *Styrax obassia*, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, *Symplocos paniculata*, *Pueraria lobata*, *Cornus kousa* and *Magnolia hypoleuca*.

Japan’s botanical sunrise
Peter Barnes

http://www.rothchildeantiques.com/images/openday4.jpg
Plants from ‘round the world

Hosta ‘Thomas Hogg’

Stewartia pseudocamellia
Frederick Law Olmsted
(April 26, 1822 - August 28, 1903)

http://www.gardenvist.com/assets/madge/biltmore_shrub_garden/600x/biltmore_shrub_garden_600x.jpg
The Gilded Age of Gardening
Honeysuckles
Golden Trumpet Vine
Virgin's Bower
Akebia quinata
Frost Grape
Engelmann’s Ivy
Wisterias
Fragrant White Clematis
English Ivy
Kudzu
Really Introduced – with Friends
1884 - 1885

New Orleans

The water hyacinth was first brought to the U.S. as part of the 1884 Cotton Exposition held in New Orleans, when the Japanese delegation distributed several plants imported from Venezuela. They proved to be popular gifts and were transported to garden ponds around the city. - ‘Exotic Species in Louisiana’ Christie Reihl (2000)

http://www.tulane.edu/~bfleury/envirobio/enviroweb/ExoticSpecies.htm
New Beginnings & New Partners

1902

USDA
David Fairchild & Charles V Piper

Charles & Lillie Pleas

USDA Yearbook 1909:
http://books.google.com/books?id=Zw4NgzmdN2UC&pg=PA248-IA1&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&sig=ACfU3U1F9CFdLQMO0zVQv4AsmJ8VYj6EA&ci=45,874,874,731&edge=0

Community to Individual

1920s

http://www.anythingaboutcars.com/images/1886_Daimler_Automobile.jpg
The need of satisfactory legumes is greatest at present in our semiarid regions, though a good perennial species adapted to the Cotton Belt would be of incalculable value. If it be true that no system of agriculture can anywhere be permanent without the use of a leguminous plant in rotation, this makes imperative the search for such a crop for every part of our country where agriculture is possible.

Botanists now recognize no less than 10,782 species of leguminous plants, distributed in 487 genera. Of these, 3,846 species in 203 genera are American; 6,930 species in 355 genera belong to the Old World. The Old World thus contains nearly twice as many species as the New. Asia is by far the richest continent both in genera and species. One-fourth of all the species consists of woody plants; the remainder, herbaceous. On each continent the members of this family show a very great range of adaptation to conditions. Many species occur in the coldest of arctic and alpine regions; others in the hottest of the Tropics, and few desert regions are so dry that they can not exist. Indeed, it may be said that wherever other flowering plants exist there occur also legumes. CV Piper p. 245
Kudzu Valuable Forage Plant
By Robert H. Moulton

“...this remarkable vine seems destined to become one of the leading sources of wealth in certain sections of the United States.”
Soil Conservation Service Figures it Out

1933 -

Kudzu King and Queen at Kudzu Jamboree 1939 (NRCS image)
The question frequently arises as to the possibility of kudzu becoming a serious pest where it is planted in areas adjoining woodland. The vines sometimes cover a few trees along the border, but the damage done to an established stand of trees is no more serious than the effect of the trees on cultivated land."  p.30
As we learn more and more about less and less, we find that we know everything about nothing at all

http://www.websophist.com/Kudzu_Ate_The_Farm.jpg
Into the Mirror
Darkly
1972

USDA APHIS to the Rescue

1974
Partial Bibliography

• Kansas City Southern Railway. (1922). Port Arthur route agricultural and industrial bulletin (Vols. 3 - 9).
kamishimo Samurai outfit made from kudzu (vine plant) late Edo

http://www.haliegallery.com/product.asp?ac=2834

http://www.southernbellessoap.com/soaps.htm


http://konny.fc2web.com/info/ingredient_e.html