

Polk County currently has roughly 11 acres of kudzu located on county owned property

Kudzu Control Options in North Carolina:

Biological/Mechanical Controls:

1. Grazing – Goats and Cattle are effective but require fencing and care of the animals for an extended period of time which makes them impractical for most applications.
2. Mowing - This can be effective if the vines are mowed and not allowed to regrow green foliage for 1-5 years. The lack of foliage will deplete the food storage in the kudzu plant, causing it's death through starvation. On flat ground this is an excellent way to eliminate kudzu, but it's not practical or safe on slopes.
3. Digging – Removing the crown of the plant is labor intensive but is a way to kill the kudzu plant. The only problem with this is the difficulty of finding all the crowns and also looking for rooted vines which can create new crowns. On slopes, this would be the best method of mechanical control but it would take years and many workers to even put a dent in the kudzu population in Polk County. Some groups in Polk (such as Conserving Carolina) have been using this method for years, and as you can tell we still have lots of kudzu.

Recommended Chemical Control Methods: 1-5 year treatment plan to be successful

1. Aminopyralid (Milestone) – Labeled as a “reduced risk” herbicide for kudzu treatment and to kill other broadleaf weeds. Application rate 7oz per acre applied when actively growing
2. Clopyralid (Transline) – Common kudzu control chemical. Has nearly 2 year residue. Application rate ¼oz per 1000sq feet (backpack sprayer) which is equivalent to 2/3 qt per acre applied when actively growing.
3. Dicamba (Vanquish) – Low volatility version of Dicamba. Can apply just before bud break to root areas when leaves are not present when applied as a concentrate of 1-2oz per crown.
4. Sulfometuron methyl (Oust) – Applied at 6oz per acre during active growth will control Kudzu within 2-3 weeks.

All can be applied using backpack sprayers or boom spray equipment