

Kudzu Bug Trap



Trapping began in early to mid-March, 2015

PVC pipe is 4-in diameter, 18-in long, with end cap

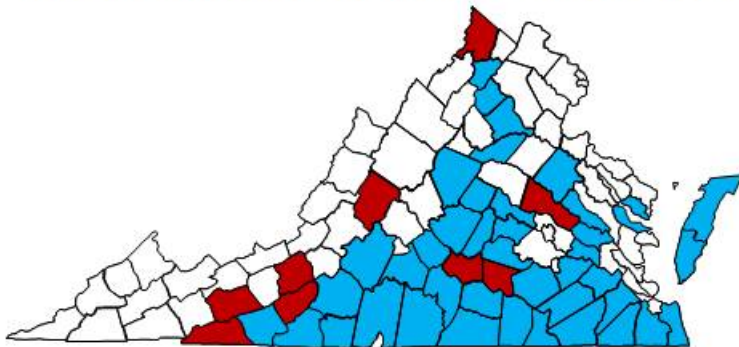
Traps can be placed in any open area (lawn or field edge, urban or farm setting)

Trap is positioned 6-8 inches above ground on support stake

Trap is checked 2-3 times per week for kudzu bug adults

Sticky paper is changed every 1-2 weeks

Kudzu bug distribution in Virginia—Aug. 9, 2013



-  Kudzu bug found in soybean (Accomack, Albemarle, Amelia, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesapeake, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Goochland, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Isle of Wight, King William, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Orange, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince George, Rappahannock, Southampton, Suffolk, Surry, Sussex, Virginia Beach, Warren)
-  Kudzu bug observed in county (Floyd, Frederick, Grayson, Hanover, Montgomery, Nottoway, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Wythe)

Identification, Biology and Behavior

Kudzu bugs are 4 to 6 mm long (about 1/6" - 1/4"), somewhat oblong in shape, and olive-green colored with brown speckles (see picture at right). They are "true bugs" and so they have piercing-sucking mouthparts. **Aside from kudzu, these insects are known to feed on a wide variety of legumes (soybeans and other bean species, as well as wisteria (see picture below) and some vetches, Eger et al. 2010).**

Kudzu bugs have several generations per year. In the spring, they feed extensively in kudzu patches and on other legume hosts. In July-August, they will move into soybeans where they feed on stems and foliage and can have a significant impact on crop yields. The bugs continue to feed and lay eggs into the fall on kudzu, late-planted soybeans, and other hosts.



Kudzu bug adult



Kudzu bugs on Wisteria. (Photo - G. Kirby, Kirby Pest Control, Supply NC)

As temperatures and day length decline, kudzu bugs seek out sheltered areas where they can pass the winter, such as under bark or rocks or in leaf litter, etc. They are most common along the edges of kudzu patches and soybean fields and in areas near residential areas; we can expect to see them invade homes similar to the behavior of another nuisance pest - the Asian lady beetle. The bugs will often congregate on light-colored surfaces (such as siding, fascia boards, etc.) as seen in the picture below. They will then move under siding, or into gaps around doors and windows, or through penetrations such as around air conditioning and water pipes. In the following spring, the bugs become active again and begin moving onto kudzu and other host plants, particularly wisteria. As a result, those bugs which have overwintered inside homes (inside walls, attics, etc.) may end up inside the home instead of heading to food sources. They may also land on siding and will deposit their eggs on non-plant surfaces such as brick, vinyl, and other siding materials.