

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

Part 2

04/10/2009

## KUDZU VINE

### BEWARE A NEW AND POTENTIALLY TERRIBLE INVASIVE PLANT

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Art C. Drysdale  
Celebrity Horticulturist.



<< **I**f folks don't want to use chemicals that's fine, but governments, such as McGuinty's in Ontario should not ban quality-proven products that have an absolutely clean bill of health from the one agency with qualified scientists conducting the tests, Health Canada. The term "qualified scientists" cannot be applied virtually to any of the people working for a number of organizations (including the Canadian Cancer Society) which have ganged up to play on the public's concerns about the environment. >>

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

## Part 2

04/10/2009

With **ONTARIO** Premier Dalton McGuinty's **STUPID COSMETIC PESTICIDE LAW** having an increasing effect on more and more aspects of plant growing (and the all-important jobs connected thereto), regularly now we are learning of additional problems that the law causes. For example, last month there was a report on the fact that **KUDZU** vine (*Pueraria montana*) -- "*the Cancer of the Plant World*" has now spread into Canada.

If you have ever driven the highways and byways of the **U.S.** southern states, you surely cannot have missed it as it covers everything it gets near up as high as the tops of hydro and telephone posts.

It has been taking over fields, roadside signs, fences, trees, and even houses in the United States for years, but now, the **KUDZU** has been discovered in Ontario, on the shores of Lake Erie near the town of Leamington. A botanist working near the town recently spotted **KUDZU** growing along the shores of **LAKE ERIE**.



" We have been watching the kudzu vine move toward Canada for some time now, with great apprehension. Our colleagues in the south have been fighting a tough battle with this invader, so we need to take immediate action in Ontario to stop kudzu in its tracks, " says Rachel Gagnon, Coordinator of the **ONTARIO INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL (O.I.P.C.)**, a collective of organizations collaborating to address the spread of alien invasive plants in **ONTARIO**.

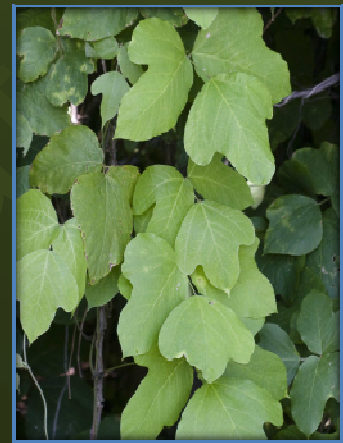
# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

## Part 2

04/10/2009

*" Fortunately, it's been found early, so unlike previous invaders, such as dog strangling vine, we have the potential to eradicate kudzu and protect Ontario's biodiversity. Controlling this menace is critical to maintaining our native plants and wildlife habitat. If we let kudzu become established, it will cause untold ecological and economic damage. "*

Scientists are analyzing the greenery, and deciding how to dispose of the patch, which stretches 120 metres along the shoreline, and is 50 metres deep. Rachel Gagnon has monitored the plant's march northward through the UNITED STATES, but was surprised that it arrived in CANADA this quickly. Studies show that temperatures below 20 degrees Celsius can kill the plant's roots. *" If it survives the winter, then obviously it's going to keep growing next summer and continue to spread, "* she said.



As annual temperatures continue to creep higher, one expert says BRITISH COLUMBIA and QUÉBEC will eventually join ONTARIO in providing a favourable climate for a KUDZU invasion. *" Québec and Ontario are the big two, "* UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ecology professor Rowan Sage said.

Invasive species, such as the MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE, that has taken a chunk out of WESTERN CANADA's forests, threaten native flora and fauna in ecosystems across the country. KUDZU is difficult to control and costly to remove. *" It just has this extremely pervasive and aggressive growth that captures a landscape and converts it to KUDZU, "* Rowan Sage said. *" We call them ' KUDZU-scapes ' "*.



# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

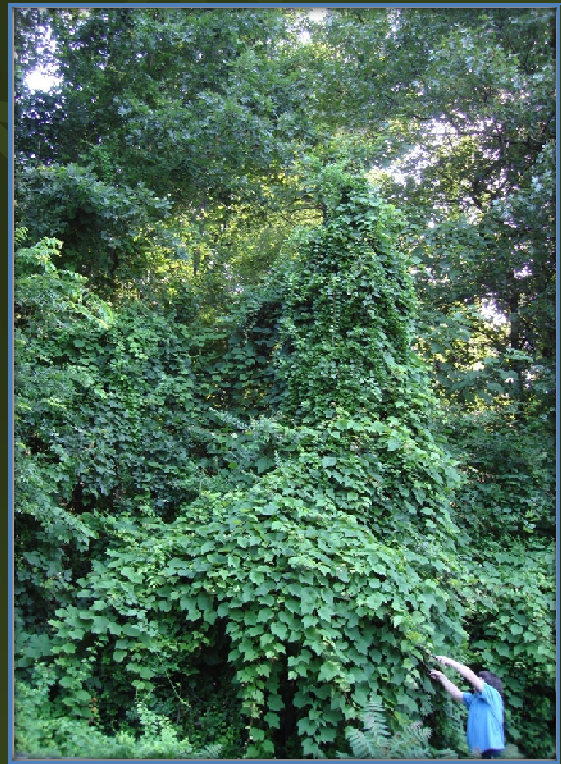
## Part 2

04/10/2009

The **KUDZU** vine is a native of **EASTERN ASIA**, and was first brought to **NORTH AMERICA** from **JAPAN** in **1876** for a centennial exhibition. It was later used for erosion control and promoted as a forage crop. Eventually, it took over much of the southern states and despite attempts to stop it, has continued to spread northward. It is said that fully **five million acres** in the **U.S.** are already covered. The **UNITED STATES** spends an estimated **US\$500 million per year** in its war against the leafy plant, which suffocates crops, damages power lines and blankets timber stands.

It has been found in **OHIO**, and **SOUTHERN MICHIGAN**, so having it skip over the border to the southern-most point in **CANADA** (**LEAMINGTON**) was predictable!

Like all other invasive species, when the vine takes to its new environment it spreads quickly at the expense of native species, including trees, which are girdled by the vine; broken by its weight; or killed by lack of light. The **KUDZU** grows at an astounding rate of **30 centimetres (one foot) per day**, and in a single season can grow up **30 metres (90 feet)** in length.



The thick coverage chokes food sources for wildlife. The plant also releases nitrogen into the air and water and can carry the soybean rust disease, which damages crops.

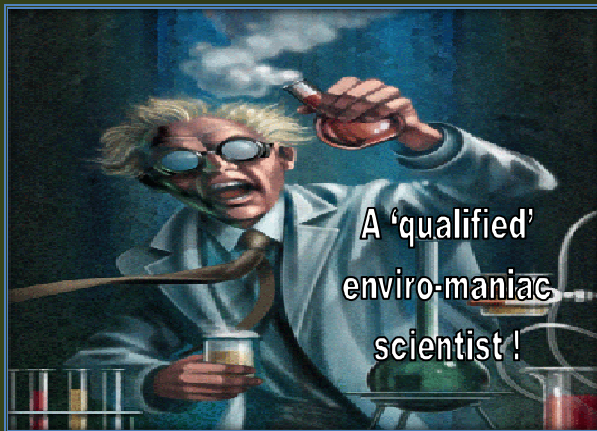
# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

## Part 2

04/10/2009

Control measures include hand cutting, mowing, controlled burns and herbicides such as **ROUNDUP**. Grazing animals, such as goats and pigs have also been effective at containing the spread of the vine over the long term.

But, **ONTARIO** and **QUÉBEC** (and quite possibly soon in other provinces, such as **BRITISH COLUMBIA**) the use of *ROUNDUP* has been **PROHIBITED**, even though it has been shown countless times to be safe, and breaks down into harmless ingredients as soon as it hits the soil. The other great chemical now banned is **2,4-D** which has been subjected to more tests than any other substance, not only here in **CANADA**, but all over the World, and there is still nothing that can be held against it.



If folks don't want to use chemicals that's fine, but governments, such as **McGuinty's** in **ONTARIO** should not ban quality-proven products that have an absolutely clean bill of health from the one agency with qualified scientists conducting the tests, **HEALTH CANADA**. The term “*qualified scientists*” cannot be applied virtually to any of the people working for a number of organizations (including the *CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY*) which have ganged up to play on the public's concerns about the environment.

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

## Part 2

04/10/2009

**Art Drysdale** is one of Canada's best-known horticulturists. For the past four decades he has been writing, and presenting radio and television broadcasts, with practical garden hints on stations such as CFRB, AM740 and CFCA. He also presented all of Canada's Weather Network gardening vignettes, hourly from April to October annually for a decade; as well as being the spokesman for The Garden Claw across the country. A life-long resident of Toronto and a horticulturist well known all across Canada, Drysdale is now a resident of Parksville, British Columbia on Vancouver Island, just north of Nanaimo. He has renovated an old home and has a new garden there. His radio gardening vignettes are heard in south-western Ontario over two radio stations : Easy 101 FM out of Tillsonburg at 2 PM weekdays and CD98.9 FM out of Norfolk County at 11:40 AM weekdays.



As a speaker Drysdale has addressed amateur and professional groups all across Canada, as well as in the U.S., England, Holland, Switzerland, Australia, South Africa, and aboard cruise ships. Drysdale graduated from East York Collegiate in 1957, with the Ontario Secondary School Honour Graduation Diploma. He was active and held several executive positions in the East York Garden Club, 1955–69. He attended The Niagara Parks Commission School of Gardening (now NPC Botanical Garden and School of Horticulture), 1958–61, where he won all five awards presented at the graduation. He initiated/edited the school's first yearbook.

From graduation in March 1961 until August 1962 Drysdale worked with the Shur-Gain Division of Canada Packers where he developed new consumer fertilizer products (Feed 'n Weedaway, for example), wrote various consumer literature, and consulted with consumers and the turf industry. He was then employed with Sheridan Nurseries Limited, 1962–69, Drysdale was Chief Horticulturist and Advertising Manager, with full responsibility for their catalogues and botanical nomenclature. In December 1963, Drysdale began writing a feature column for a new magazine, Canadian Nurseryman, and continued to do so until March 1969. He was also a member of the founding committee. In 1964, he was appointed part-time Executive Director and Editor with the Canadian Parks/Recreation Association (CP/RA), with the office in his home. In 1969–70, he was employed full-time as CP/RA Executive Director, and Editor of Recreation Canada. He set up CP/RA's first permanent office in Ottawa in early 1971. From 1971–1978, he free-lanced as a horticultural writer and published/edited Recreation Canada. In 1973, he was appointed Regional Director (Canada) of the Garden Writers Association of America (GWAA). During 1979–81 period he served as President of the Garden Writers Association, the first-ever Canadian to hold the office representing over 1,000 members, mostly in the U.S.A.

In March 1975, Dent Canada published his book Gardening Off The Ground that he wrote on the invitation of the publisher. It was the first Canadian book for balcony gardeners. In July 1996, he self-published a completely revised and enlarged version, including his own colour photos.

Art Drysdale also has his own website at <http://www.artdrysdale.com>



# The Wisdom of Drysdale ! Part 2

04/10/2009



**FORCE OF NATURE** was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1st, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY, the ENVIRONMENTAL TERROR MOVEMENT, politicians, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States and overseas. Force of Nature is produced in two parts. First. The Media Report itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY. Second. Independent Perspective, which is a running commentary, sometimes technical in nature. Force of Nature is the **WHOLE TRUTH** from an **INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE** !

Force of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. Norah G is actually an acronym for the stable of writers that contribute to this e-newsletter. The opinions expressed in Force of Nature, even though from an **INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE**, may not reflect those of everyone in the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY, or Mr. Gathercole's many associates. Be warned ! Mr. Gathercole and Norah G may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters. **DON'T THANK US. IT'S A PUBLIC SERVICE. AND WE ARE GLAD TO DO IT.**



William H. Gathercole holds a degree in Horticulture from the UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, and another pure and applied science degree from MCGILL UNIVERSITY. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY, including public affairs, personal safety, and environmental issues. Mr. Gathercole has been a consultant and instructor for decades. He also been an agricultural agronomist. Mr. Gathercole has been following the evolution of ENVIRONMENTAL TERRORISM for over a quarter-century. His involvement in environmental issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with others, legal action against unethical and excessive municipal regulations restricting the use of pest control products. ( i.e. the Town of Hudson. ) Although he can be accused of being **ANTI-ENVIRONMENT-MOVEMENT**, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate **FOR** the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the Green Space Industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is **UNDENIABLE**. ( Hopefully ! ) For many years, Mr. Gathercole has been a contributing columnist for **TURF & Recreation Magazine**, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

All document excerpts and pictures contained in Force of Nature were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, serving one of the following purposes : archive, education, promotion, publicity, or press release.

We believe that environmental terrorism can be **BEATEN** ! Information presented in Force of Nature has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader. The events, characters, companies, and organizations, depicted in this document are not always fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, may not be coincidental. The mission of Force of Nature is to respond to those statements and activities originating from culprits that conspire to prohibit **FEDERALLY LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE, and TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE** conventional pest control products. Culprits are identified on the basis of their statements, activities, affiliations, and whereabouts. Even though each culprit is a mis-guided adversary, each still deserves our respect. The term « culprit » is not an accusation of any legal wrong-doing. Force of Nature is simply holding culprits accountable for changes in public policy that have terrorized the Green Space Industry. Force of Nature believes that the prohibition policies of the **ENVIRONMENTAL TERROR MOVEMENT** will lead to **UNEMPLOYMENT, BANKRUPTCY, BUSINESS FAILURE, DESPAIR, and DESTITUTION**. The actions of the movement is viewed as a form of **TERROR** against the Green Space Industry.

The following titles are currently available. (Or, will be available in the near future.) • Alberta Prohibition • British Columbia Prohibition • Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment • Canadian Environmental Law Association • Consequences • David Suzuki Foundation • DDT and Politicized Science • Death and the Environmental Movement • Golf and Landscape Trade Industries • June Irwin, The Clown of Junk Science • Kazimiera Jean Cottam • Kelowna BC Prohibition • New Brunswick Prohibition • Nova Scotia Prohibition • Ontario Prohibition • Organic Fertilizers • Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals • Prince Edward Island Prohibition • Quebec Prohibition • Rachel Carson, The Queen of Junk Science • Randy Hillier, The Next Premier of Ontario • Salmon Arm BC Prohibition • The 9/11 Era of the Green Space Industry • The Failure of Integrated Pest Management • The Industry Strikes Back • The Misconceptions About Cancer • The Wisdom of Drysdale • The Wisdom of Holland • The Wisdom of Mains • The Wisdom of the Solomons • Wisconsin Fertilizer Prohibition • **ASK FOR A COPY OF ANY BACK ISSUE OF FORCE OF NATURE TODAY. READ ALL ABOUT ENVIRO-MANIACS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL TERROR ORGANIZATIONS IN FORCE OF NATURE ! THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE !**

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

Part 2

04/10/2009

*Read all about  
ENVIRO-MANIACS  
and their  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
TERROR  
ORGANIZATIONS  
in FORCE OF NATURE !*

*Pest control  
products are  
FEDERALLY  
LEGAL,  
SCIENTIFICALLY  
SAFE, and  
TOTALLY  
IRREPLACEABLE !*

*The  
WHOLE TRUTH  
from an  
INDEPENDENT  
PERSPECTIVE !*

*Environmental  
terrorism  
can be  
BEATEN !*