

INSTRUCTION BOOKLET



pie for breakfast studios



MEGA
CAT
STUDIOS

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PROLOGUE

There is no other choice...”, the wizened gardening master Zoen said to no one in particular as he loaded tools into his pack. “This plant is unlike any I have ever seen, and if the journals I found are true, it must be destroyed!

The famous Zoen had arrived with his research team of gardeners, landscapers, and biologists only 5 months prior, following rumors about a new species of the invasive plant, kudzu. In that time, he had seen it not only grow at an alarming rate, but show what he thought might be signs of actual intelligence: tools used to cut the vines would go missing and a feeling like something was watching...

“My just leaving like this is going to cause a stir, but I can’t let any of them do this with me.” thought Zoen, stepping out of his house into the night.

The next morning, Zoen's top student, Max, arrived with his teacher's morning tea, when he noticed the door wide open. "That's unusual...", he thought as he stepped inside. Zoen's house was in shambles, with research notes strewn all around and his notebook left out on the table.

Minutes later, Max burst from the house himself, "I can't believe he went off alone. We've all seen what that plant can do - I've got to find him!"

What secrets lurk in the leafy labyrinth? Max's - and your - Kudzu adventure is about to begin!



CONTROLLER INFORMATION





+ Control Pad - Moving

Use the + control pad to move Max in 4 different directions. Max can go up stairs and ramps. He can also cross bridges and walk across the tops of leaf piles. The + control pad is also used to move the cursor in menus.

A button - Interact and Confirm

The A button is used to interact with characters, read signs, pull switches, and push objects once you have the Gardening Gloves. The A button also confirms choices on menus and progresses dialog.

Start Button - Viewing the Status Menu

Press START to see the Status Menu. The Status Menu lets you see your health, use Kudzu Jelly to heal Max, and check your items and Inventory.

B button - Attack and Gardening Tools

Press the B button to attack with the Machete once Max finds it. Other gardening tools such as the Hoe and Rake are also used with B automatically if Max is facing objects they can be used with.



Select Button - Viewing the Map Screen

Pressing SELECT will show you a map of the current area if you have bought that area's map. Once you have acquired compasses, you will also be able to see your location and the location of various items.



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Correctly the Kudzu Game Pak into your Game Boy system and move the power switch to the ON position. You will see several logos appear for a few seconds, followed by the title screen.

Title Screen Options

On the title screen, you may press START or A button to bring up the game menu, where you can choose 2 options:

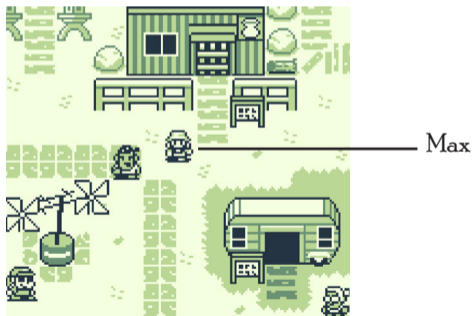
- ~ New Game: Begins a new game of Kudzu
- ~ Continue: Pick up your game from your most recent save point



SCREEN DISPLAY

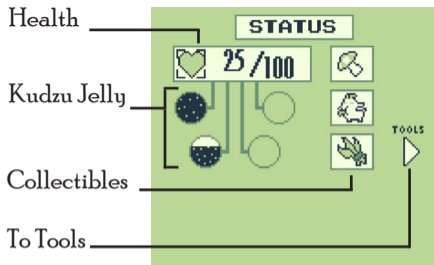
Main Screen

This is the screen that you will use to explore the kudzu labyrinth. It is fairly free of interface items, but a low-health indicator will appear above Max's head when he is at 50 and 25 hit points.

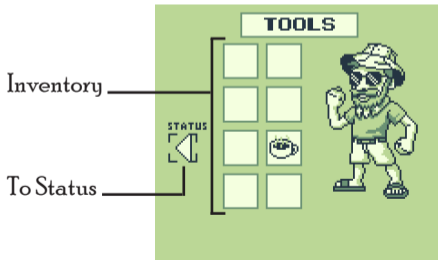


Status Menu

This screen allows you to check your health, heal Max using Kudzu Jelly, and check on your collections of various items by pressing A when they are highlighted.



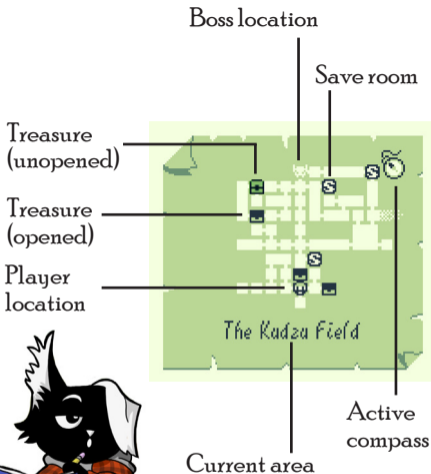
By selecting the arrow at the right of the screen, you can also go to the Tools Menu, where you can look at your inventory. Press **START** or **B** from either screen to return to the Main Screen.



Map Screen

This screen allows you to look at a map of your current area and, if you've acquired one of the various types of compasses in the game, the location of Max, Save Rooms, Treasures, and other items.

Maps must be bought from Truffle. Once players have found the special compasses, they can press A on the Map Screen to change compass modes.

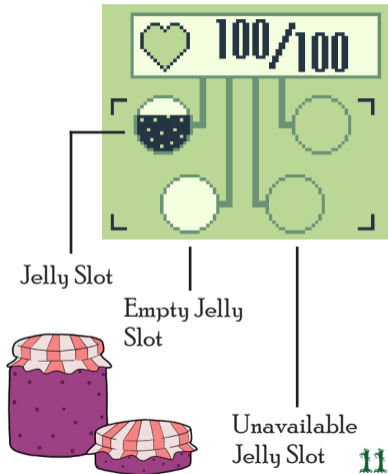


HEALING MAX

Max must collect and eat Kudzu Jelly to heal.

On the Status Screen, you can heal Max by pressing Down on the + control pad when the cursor is highlighting the health display to make it highlight the Jelly Slots. Press A to make Max consume the contents of 1 Jelly Slot (refills about 75 hit points.)

Max begins the game with 1 available Jelly Slot, but can expand that amount by completing certain side-quests.



EXPLORING THE KUDZU

The world of Kudzu spans 5 known regions, though others may lie within uncharted areas. While Max needs to be on guard from dangerous creatures, the kudzu also hides puzzles, traps, and the occasional treasure.

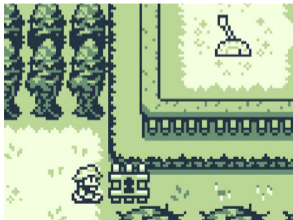
Treasure Chests

These left-behind boxes contain items. Open them with the A button.



Locked Gates

Locked gates block Max's path through the kudzu. They may be unlocked by pulling nearby switches located in the same room.



Electrical Gates

Sometimes Max will find the next part of a region blocked off by gates attached to power boxes. The number of power boxes next to these gates indicates how many switches Max must pull to deactivate the gate. The switches for Electrical Gates are not usually found in the same room as the gate itself so Max will have to search for them.

Enemy Gates

These gates remain locked until all of the enemies in a room or part of a room are defeated.



Gate with
2 power
boxes

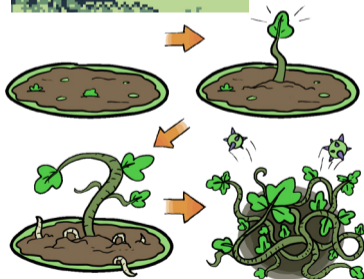
Electric Gate Switch



Kudzu, Soil, and Rusted Switches

Long time periods in the elements have rusted some of the switches in the Kudzu Labyrinth, and the only thing strong enough to pull them is the kudzu itself.

Max will often have to facilitate the growth and spread of kudzu to solve puzzles. When kudzu matures, it fires seeds that will grow if they land in fertile soil, causing a new kudzu plant to grow and spread its own seeds.

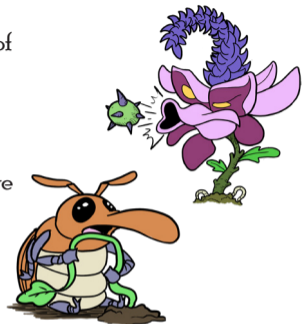


Max can start chain reactions of kudzu growth and propagation by helping seeds find patches of soil or switches. Sources of seeds include:

~ Kudzu Blossoms ~ Living kudzu flowers that spit seeds at Max. The seeds can grow if they have a clear pathway to patches of soil.

~ Kudzu Weevils ~ Creatures that chew on young kudzu plants. Kill them so that the plant can grow and spread seeds undisturbed.

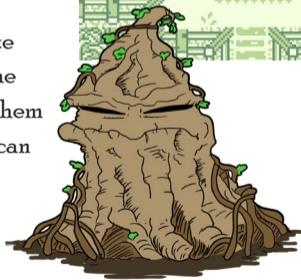
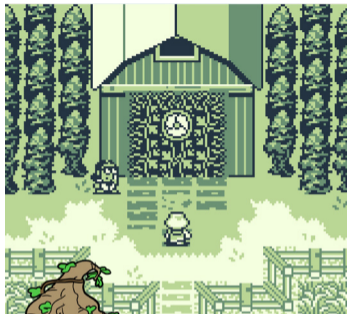
~ Blossom Statues ~ Seed-firing statues that Max can push once he gets the Gardening Gloves.



Boss Gates and Kudzu Roots

The hiding places of extra-strong Boss creatures attracts an extra-strong form of kudzu that no machete can cut. In these cases, Max must search for the Roots of the vines so he can confront the Boss inside.

The seal on these Boss Gates indicate how many Kudzu Roots are left in the area. Once Max finds and destroys them all, the vines will disappear and he can enter the door.



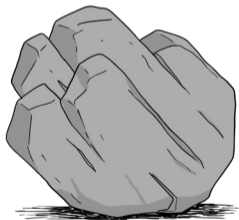


Rocky Soil

Sometimes passages or the pathways of kudzu seeds are blocked by patches of rocky soil. Max can break them up by attacking with the B button once he finds the Garden Hoe. Some patches even have fertile soil underneath!

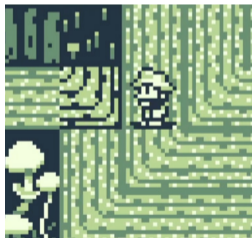
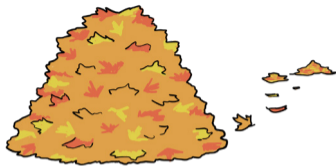
Garden Boulders

Large rocks that Max can push by pressing the A button once he finds the Gardening Gloves. Some can merely be pushed out of the way, but others have special effects if arranged in specific patterns. Max can also push statues and other heavy objects.



Leaf Piles

Piles of leaves that can be pushed by hitting them with the B button once Max finds the Rake. By pushing big leaf piles into smaller partially-formed piles, Max can create ramps and bridges to reach new areas.



Garden Sand

As a student of different types of garden design, Max is very familiar with Zen Gardens, and can use his Rake with the B button to change the pattern of squares of sand in them. Completed Zen Garden patterns can yield special effects.

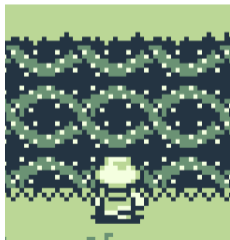


Super Kudzu

These are patches of extra-strong kudzu that Max's standard machete can't cut. He may have to find a stronger tool to get through it.

Brambles

Some areas in the Kudzu Labyrinth are also covered with dangerous brambles. Max will get hurt if he steps into them wearing his normal flip-flops. He needs to find a sturdy pair of Boots to cross them.



GARDENING TOOLS AND ITEMS

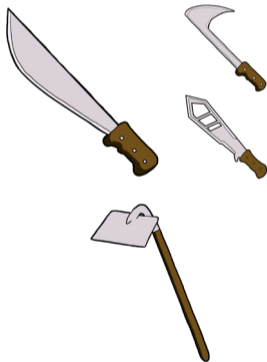
The world of Kudzu will throw many challenges towards you as you guide Max through the leafy maze, but along the way, you'll find new tools and items for Max that will prepare him for any challenge.

Machete

A trusty gardening machete, useful for fighting monsters and chopping kudzu. Careful explorers may find even more powerful models.

Garden Hoe

A tool for clearing rocky soil. Is automatically used when pressing the B button.



Gardening Gloves

These allow Max to push heavy objects by interacting them with the A button, and raise Max's maximum health capacity.



Rake

Allows Max to push piles of leaves and change the patterns in Zen Garden sand. Is automatically used when pressing the B button.



Boots

This amazing footwear allows Max to walk through damaging brambles and raises Max's maximum health capacity. These aren't just given out ~ Max must finish an important mission for these.



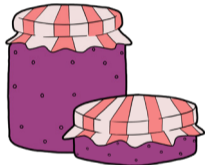
Mushrooms

The currency of the world of Kudzu ~ dropped by enemies or found as items. It's not that money doesn't exist, everyone's just super into mycology.



Kudzu Jelly

Used to heal Max in the Status Screen. Comes in jars of various sizes. Small jars are dropped by enemies.



Goats

These goats belong to Tina the Llama, who is using the goats to eat away the invasive kudzu. 20 have wandered off. Can you help Tina find them? They'll eat anything ~ even garbage!



Pokeweed Leaves

The leaves of the Pokeweed plant, which is poisonous unless expertly cooked. The cooking water can fortify Max's stomach, allowing him to carry more Kudzu Jelly. Found as items or by defeating Pokeweed Monsters.



Compasses

These allow you to see various things on the Map Screen, including Max's location, treasures, save points, and eventually goats and pokeweed.



Quest Items

Various items that Max finds or is given on his adventure, from letters to actual garbage.

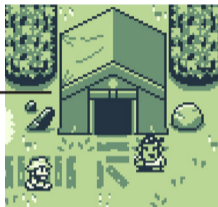


SAVING YOUR GAME

The Kudzu Labyrinth mysteriously contains many Save Tents and other rest spots, compete with radios for calling back to the Research Camp to report your findings.

Use the A button to interact with the cot inside save tents and save rooms to refill Max's health. Interacting with the Radio allows you to save your game.

Save Tent



Radio

Cot

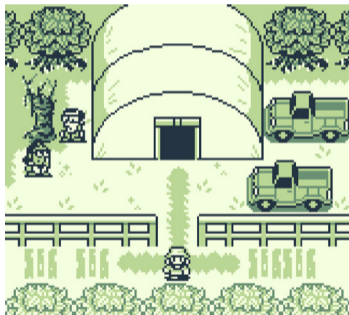


POINTS OF INTEREST

While dangerous, the Kudzu Labyrinth has many natural, human-made, and maybe-not-human-made sights to see. Here are a few interesting places to look for during your adventure, but there may be even more!

Research Camp Town

Zoen and a team of gardeners and biologists have set up a Research Camp south of the Kudzu Field. There you will find some houses, a library, a research lab, and other surprises.



Ellie's Jellies and General Store

A slightly bougie store in the Research Camp town that sells both general goods as well as hand-made artisanal jellies and jams. The owner is known for her enthusiasm for the healing power of Kudzu Jelly, and will teach anyone who will listen about it.



Grace's Cabin

The house of Max's gardening rival, Grace. Found across the Highway from the Research Camp and South of the Kudzu Field. Visited often by the camp librarian.



Ethel's Pokeweed Diner

This out-of-the-way eatery in the Kudzu Field serves up Pokeweed-inspired dishes that fortify the stomach. Bring Pokeweed leaves here to expand the amount of Kudzu Jelly you can carry.



Scholar's Retreat and Fishing Pond

Past the Garden, you will find a famous architect's contemporary-style fishing retreat. You can pay 15 Mushrooms to fish here, but watch out for rocks and junk.



THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

Zoen

A reserved master gardener with many years of experience, and Max's teacher. His wandering off sets off the adventure.



Grace

Not an official member of Zoen's team. She is a native of the area who comes from a long line of gardeners. She sees herself as Max's rival and is eager to prove herself by learning as much as she can.



Ellie

The owner of the general store and a native of the area. Her passion is making jellies with special healing properties.



Truffle

An eccentric cat person (or, person who is also a cat) and architecture student with a fascination for the kudzu and its aggressive tendencies. They sell their sketches to use as maps.



???

A quiet and mysterious young girl that Max finds wandering through the Kudzu Field. What she is doing out there is anyone's guess...



Ethel

An alligator person (or, person who is an alligator) who owns a diner that serves food made from pokeweed leaves. Visit her to expand your Kudzu Jelly carrying capacity.



Barry

A friend of Max and fellow researcher in the camp. He operates the camp's radio and is on the other end when you call in to save your game.



Tina

A friendly llama-person who is convinced that goats will be the thing to eliminate the kudzu.



Kiki and Pinecone

Two cat-persons who live near the research camp. Kiki is older and likes the quiet life in this remote area, but the younger Pinecone is always looking for new hobbies.



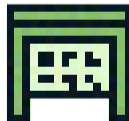
The Old Gardener

Zoen's neighbor and actually not much of a gardener. Needs Max's help with his yard.



"Ranger Danger"

The unseen author of trail signs and a successful series of survival manuals used by hikers in the area. He's rooting for you!

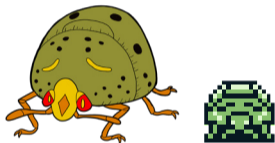


KUDZU CREATURES

Like the kudzu itself, the creatures infesting the Kudzu Labyrinth have shown strength and aggressiveness beyond the norm, and will make life difficult for anyone who wanders in.

Kudzu Bug

A simple bug that feeds on kudzu. They walk around aimlessly in the Kudzu Field area.



Agki

Vicious snakes that charge intruders to the Kudzu Field and Garden regions, but leave themselves vulnerable to attack afterward.



Kudzu Blossoms

When the unique species of kudzu in the Kudzu Labyrinth flowers, it creates these monsters that shoot kudzu seeds at Max. The seeds can sometimes be used to solve puzzles.



Shellusk

Slow moving snails that populate the Garden region. Thanks to their armored shells, they can only be hit from the front, so plan accordingly!



Ogumo

Large spiders that patrol the Garden and fire balls of webbing at Max.



Phanplasm

Spirits trapped in the kudzu that have fallen under the plant's strange control. They can be attacked when visible.



Kudzu Armor

Suits of armor once used as decoration. They are now overgrown with kudzu, waiting silently for Max to get close before springing to life.



Flying Thistle

Troublesome weeds that spin their leaves like a helicopter and chase Max. They can only be hit when resting between spins.



Scavenger

Rats that can be found in abandoned structures throughout the Kudzu Labyrinth. They are fast and much sturdier than they look



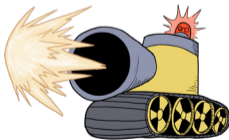
Giant Tick

Woodland pests mutated by the kudzu's effects to be somehow even more unpleasant. While other creatures were docile before going "kudzu wild", the ticks were always jerks.



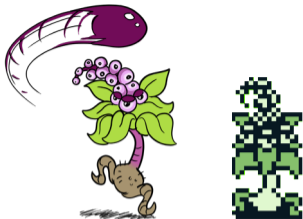
Security Drone

Robots built to protect secret areas. They fire shots of electricity at Max and increase their speed after being hit.



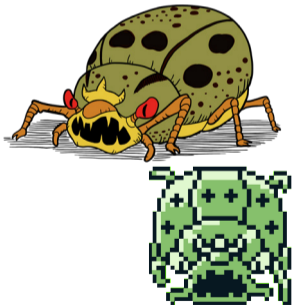
Pokeweed Monsters

Among the mightiest plants to come under the kudzu's influence. They spin their flail-like berries around them as a shield, but can be attacked when they try to attack Max with them. Defeat them to collect their leaves.



Kudzu Bug Queen

The mother of the Kudzu Bug brood and the boss of the Kudzu Field region. She attacks by spitting kudzu seeds and charging towards Max when he's in front of her. It's impossible to hit through her tough exoskeleton, but might be vulnerable on her underside..



CREDITS

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NOTES

