

Bolt-on electric power steering kit for ATV's upgrades older machines



Power Steering Kit For ATV's

Electric power steering is the latest option on high-end ATV's. But if you already own an ATV, you'll like this bolt-on electric power steering kit.

All Terrain Research (ATR) released its first kit for 2003 to 2009 Polaris Sportsman 700 and 800cc models this summer. The first production run was bought out immediately, says Ted Long, general manager for the company. Within a year, he anticipates the company to have kits for Kawasaki, Yamaha, Can-Am, Arctic Cat and Honda.

Long says the power steering kit appeals

to a variety of customers: trail riders, farmers and ranchers, women, people with disabilities. Steering a heavy ATV all day long while pulling implements or driving rough terrain can be tiring, and ATR's kit offers a 40 to 60 percent assist.

"It's in-line steering," Long says. "The kit replaces the steering shaft." People who are mechanically handy can expect to spend about 3 1/2 hrs. installing the kit following detailed instructions and a troubleshooting guide. You can also have a dealer install it. Installation includes running power from the wire harness and hooking up an LED to the dash to show that the steering is operating.

"The system uses a sensor to read all steering kick-back and the motor absorbs hard impacts that would normally knock the handle bars out of your hands," Long explains. "It's also a steering damper, so if you're on terrain that pulls the handlebars around, it counteracts by stiffening up the steering."

ATR also offers \$995 kits for popular UTV's such as the Kawasaki Mule, Deere Gator and several other brands and models.

The U.S.-made kits have a year warranty on the system and lifetime manufacture defect warranty. They can be purchased directly from ATR or from dealers listed on the website. Dealer inquiries are welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ATV Power Steering, 4504-A Candy Lane, Tyler, Texas 75703 (ph 877 581-0041; www.atrpowersports.com).

No Mow Grass Requires No Fertilizer

Jackson Madnick hasn't mowed his lawn since he developed Pearl's Premium Grass. The grass is easy to plant and even easier to maintain. Once established, no watering, fertilizing or even mowing is needed. It even resists bugs. The only thing you can't do is graze it.

"I started out looking for grass varieties that were native to New England or had adapted to the climate. I gradually narrowed my selection from 100 to five," says Madnick. "I grew hundreds of flats with different mixes of seeds until I hit on the right one that grew superior to others. It has a strain that is resistant to fungi."

Madnick has patented two mixtures, one for sunny areas and one for shade. He credits the 12-in. roots for much of the extreme drought hardiness. The lush grass also features a green color that extends into winter.

"It will grow slowly to around 9 in.," he says. "At that point, it tips over and looks like about a 4-in. high meadow. Or, you can mow it about once a month and keep it at 4 to 5 in. in height."

Madnick says his grass is easy to establish when fall seeded. Simply cut the existing grass as short as possible (1 in. or less) and rake away the clippings. He advises spreading 1/4 in. of compost and seeding into it at a rate of 5 to 8 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. After lightly raking it, the seed should be lightly rolled into the compost.

The only watering ever needed, according to Madnick, is for the first three weeks on any day that it doesn't rain. That should be followed by watering every other day for another two weeks.

He does recommend overseeding in the following seasons to more quickly establish a lush lawn.

The slow growing grass has been endorsed by a number of environmental organizations. They cite the lack of need for water, fertilizer or pest control applications and reduced cutting. They also cite its natural hardiness. "The principle behind it is that it grows so slowly, that it can hang on and thrive when other grass can't," explains Madnick.



Once established, Pearl's Grass requires no watering, fertilizing or mowing.



Two mixtures are available - one for sunny areas and one for shade.

Pearl's Premium is currently selling in stores throughout the northeastern U.S. Several environmental organizations are also selling it, and Madnick offers it direct from his website. A 5-lb. bag with shipping and handling and state tax is priced at \$42.65. A 25-lb. bag is priced at \$180.00, including other costs, and will cover approximately 3,500 sq. ft.

"Pearl's Premium has been planted on more than 2,000 lawns since it was introduced, as far south as Washington, D.C.," says Madnick.

He has provided FARM SHOW with 5-lb. bags of sun and shade mixtures for testing. Plots will be planted this fall and overseeded next spring for a report on the seed in the fall of 2010.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jackson Madnick, 206 Lake Shore Drive, Wayland, Mass. 01778 (ph 508 653-0800; JacksonMadnick@msn.com; www.pearlspremium.com).

Vol. 33, No. 5, 2009

Harold M. Johnson
Founder

Editor/Publisher

Mark Newhall (mark@farmshow.com)

Senior Editor

Bill Gergen (bill@farmshow.com)

Contributing Editors

Janis Schole (jschole@west-teq.net)

Jim Ruen (edgcom@acegroup.cc)

C.F. Marley (ph 217 563-2588)

Dee Goerge (dee_goerge@yahoo.com)

Office Manager

Anne Lash (anne@farmshow.com)

Circulation

Peg Nagel, Shelly Mende, Mary Lunde,

Sue Rommes (circulation@farmshow.com)

FARM SHOW (ISSN #01634518) is published 7 times per year (bimonthly plus one special "Best of FARM SHOW" issue published in December) for \$23.95 per year (\$27.95 in Canada) by Farm Show Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 1029, 20088 Kenwood Trail, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and Madelia, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 952 469-5572; fax 952 469-5575; email: circulation@farmshow.com; website: www.farmshow.com). Single copy price is \$5.95 (\$7.50 in Canada). Publication No. 469490.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40032660
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses To:
Dycom Mail Svcs.
495 Berry St.
Winnipeg, MB R3J 1N6
Email: circulation@farmshow.com

FARM SHOW does not accept advertising and focuses exclusively on new products and product evaluations.

FARM SHOW does not charge for new products or services featured in the magazine. Anyone with a new product or service of interest to farmers - whether inventor, manufacturer, marketer, distributor or whatever - is invited to contact FARM SHOW regarding possible publication.

FARM SHOW Publishing, Inc., has not tested or used any of the ideas or products described in its publications. FARM SHOW Publishing, Inc., does not promote, recommend or endorse the use of the ideas or products described in its publications. FARM SHOW Publishing, Inc., disclaims any and all responsibilities and liabilities in the event of personal injury, death, property damage or losses as the result of the use or application of any such ideas or products. Anyone applying or using such ideas or products does so at his, her or their own risk.

Printed in U.S.A. All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction, in whole or in part, without written permission.

Sept.-Oct. 2009

Raised Garden Beds Made From Refrigerators

Due to a spinal cord injury, Rick Metheral, Cranbrook, B. C., needed to find a way to garden without bending over. He couldn't justify the cost of raised wooden beds so he came up with a new approach - growing vegetables in old freezers and refrigerators.

Upright angle irons bolted to the sides of the freezers and refrigerators support wire trellises for growing peas and beans.

"I already had some old freezers in my barn that I had been using to store grain for livestock. That's what gave me the idea," says Metheral. "I now have 29 freezers and refrigerators placed in neat, straight rows."

He removed the lids and shelving and punched large holes in the bottom for drainage, then lined them up in rows. He used a loader to dump 2 ft. of horse manure into each unit and then topped that up with composted soil. He places old window panes across the top of some of the refrigerators to make hot boxes for early or late season growing.

A drip irrigation system is used to water the garden. Discarded carpet is placed between the rows of refrigerators, which makes for a clean, comfortable and weed-less work area.

"It works great and grows tremendous vegetables," says Metheral. "Because of the insulation in the freezers and refrigerators, the soil temperature at the roots never varies more than 5 degrees within a 24-hour



Growing vegetables in old freezers and refrigerators allows Rick Metheral to garden without bending over.

period. In contrast, the temperature varied 15 plus degrees in the ground. As an added bonus there are no slug or rodent problems.

"The freezers and refrigerators could be placed on used pallets and moved anywhere to make a mobile garden."

Metheral also uses an old freezer as a horse watering trough. "It's easy to clean

and is at just the right height for the animals. And because of the insulation, it takes less power to keep water from freezing during the winter."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Metheral, 7277 Hwy. 3 and 95, Cranbrook, B. C., Canada (ph 250 426-8590).