



Dale Depee mounted this 4-ft. sicklebar on front of his Polaris Sportsman ATV. Sicklebar was originally designed to be pto-driven.



He removed the pto hardware so he could drive it with an engine. A winch on front is used to lift sicklebar up.

Sicklebar Mower Adapted To ATV

"I use it to cut along roadside ditches. It mounts right in front of me so I don't get a sore neck from looking back all the time,"

says Dale Depee, Somers, Mont., about the 4-ft. sicklebar he mounted on front of his Polaris Sportsman ATV.

Depee describes himself as an "auction sale" junky and says he had been looking for just the right mower for his ATV. He didn't want a pull-type mower deck because the ATV would push down the grass before cutting. Finally one day he spotted a 4-ft. sicklebar designed to mount behind a larger garden tractor equipped with a pto. He bought

the sicklebar and took it home, where he removed the pto hardware so he could drive it with an engine.

A few months earlier, he had bought an ATV 4-ft. snowblower attachment powered by a 10 hp gas engine. He used the snowblower's engine and mounting system to mount the sicklebar on front of the ATV.

"It does a nice job cutting and, because it's in front of me, I can see rocks and stumps and swerve to miss them," says Depee. "The

entire unit weighs about 75 lbs., which my ATV handles well. I use a winch on front to lift it up. I've used it to cut two miles of ditches along our road. One change I made was to replace the 10 hp engine with a 5 hp one, because that's all it needs. I spent a total of about \$100 which I think was well spent."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale D. Depee, 209 Buffalo Trail, Somers, Mont. 59932 (ph 406 857-2092; email: dale.depee@bnsf.com).

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Harold M. Johnson

Founder & Publisher Emeritus
Editor/Publisher

Mark Newhall (mark@farmshow.com)

Senior Editor

Bill Gergen (bill@farmshow.com)

Associate Editor

Dawn Throener (dawn@farmshow.com)

Contributing Editors

Janis Schole (jschole@west-teq.net)

Jim Ruen (edgecom@acegroup.cc)

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

Office Manager

Anne Lash (anne@farmshow.com)

Circulation

Peg Nagel, Shelly Mende,

Mary Lunde (circulation@farmshow.com)

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Email: circulation@farmshow.com

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To make this gardenhouse, Janet Willie simply covered a greenhouse frame with bird netting and added doors.

Gardenhouse Keeps Pest Animals Out

When Janet Willie and her husband moved into rural Texas, they wanted to have a garden but didn't want it to become a wildlife salad bar. That's when they came up with the idea for a "gardenhouse."

The idea is surprisingly simple. Take a greenhouse frame, cover it with bird netting, and add doors. That's it.

The netting lets in the rain, sun and bees while keeping out birds, rabbits, deer and other pest animals.

One problem they discovered right away is that rabbits and other animals would chew through the nylon netting so they added a 3-ft. tall ring of metal chicken wire around the perimeter of the structure.

While they see a lot of wildlife around the gardenhouse, the Willies haven't had any problems. "We haven't seen any of them try to charge through it," says Janet.

Although the initial construction cost was somewhat high, there's no maintenance to the structure once built.

They used a 25 by 50-ft. secondhand greenhouse frame with metal pipes for added support. Two 50-ft. PVC pipes with sprinkler heads and automatic timers ensure regular waterings.

Knit black polyester game bird netting with 1-in. squares is attached to the frame with plastic cable ties.

Inside the gardenhouse, they arched 34-in. by 16-ft. hog panels across the middle pathway to act as trellises that increase the garden size dramatically for vining fruits and vegetables.

The paths around and between raised beds are covered with white cloth to keep out weeds.

Janet says they don't sell the fruits and vegetables from the gardenhouse. It's just a family garden.

She notes that any kind or size of frame could work for a gardenhouse. The main thing to remember is to keep it big enough to walk into.

"It's the best thing we've ever done," Janet says. Because of this, she's willing to offer assistance to those wanting to create their own gardenhouse.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Janet Willie, P.O. Box 291, Mountain Home, Texas 78058 (ph 830 866-3768; email: crislyn@hilconet.com).

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Inside gardenhouse, Janet arched 34-in. by 16-ft. hog panels across the middle pathway to act as trellises for vining fruits and vegetables.