

PULLING PULSE *Newsletter*

Issue 4, June 2017

In This Issue:

- ◆ Kids are Pullers too!
- ◆ Never too Young to Pull
- ◆ New Link of the Month
- ◆ TECH Tip: Tractor Pedal Extension
- ◆ Our Future Pullers—Watching Them Grow
- ◆ More Info

Kids are Pullers too!

The pulling community is built on *family*, and that includes kids of all ages. Today's kids are tomorrow's pullers, so next time you attend a garden tractor pull, be sure to cheer on all the young pulling participants!

What does it take to mentor a young puller? Well, it's no surprise that **safety** is always first. Keeping all pullers safe, is the most important priority for any pulling organization. But for kids, well...there are a few additional tips to keep in mind if you buy or build a pulling tractor that your kids might be pulling.

- ⇒ First—read all rules for the kids' class. All rules are there to protect and ensure the safety of all kids...and it is the tractor owner's responsibility to completely comply with all rules and requirements. If you are not sure what the rules are for a particular pull, contact someone and request documentation. For example: for pulls that are put on by Cox Pulling, all rules for all classes, including the kids' class are posted online. They can be found in web form, and are also available as a downloadable PDF file. Check here: pullinggardentractors.com/rules.
- ⇒ Second—there are obvious and common sense tips that can secure your kid's safety when pulling:
 - * Tractor fenders should completely cover the top and front portions of the back tires so the child's hands and feet cannot come in contact with any part of the tires when pulling.
 - * Although stated in the rules, two things bear repeating here—a working kill-switch is required for all kids requiring assistance in starting and stopping tractor...and of course, wheelie bars are a must!
 - * Kids must keep both hands on the steering wheel during the pull and they must steer on their own.
 - * Adults are encouraged to assist: cheer your young puller on; help hook the tractor; help to start the tractor at the beginning of the pull; feel free to walk beside the tractor during your child's pull; help to stop the tractor after the pull is complete.
 - * Kids should wear long leg pants and closed-end shoes when pulling.
 - * Although not required, it is highly recommended that all kids wear protective helmets during their pull.

Remember, garden tractor pulling is a great family sport. Your kids and grand-kids can be an active part of it all. Pulling can help instill confidence in kids, as well as help to develop mental and physical skills and coordination. Building character and good sportsmanship, pulling can also teach kids how to win and lose gracefully. And most of all...it's fun!

Never too Young to Pull



Think you're kid's too young to pull? Well, think again!

If your kid can walk, they can pull a tractor—a *pedal* tractor, this is.

Check out fairs, festivals and even some adult pulling events themselves...you might find a Pedal Tractor Pull going on, sometimes called Kiddie Pulls. A kid's pedal tractor is hooked to a specialty made, kid-sized mini-sled.

It's great fun for the kids—and a perfect way to get your future pullers started early!



New Link of the Month

Perusing the web this month, I found a great pulling source of information. When you have some time to read a little bit, you'll enjoy a plethora of pulling information, along with some humor sprinkled in. Full of tips and trick, Brian Miller's site is worth a look. Enjoy! <http://gardentractorpullingtips.com/index.htm>

TECH TIP: Tractor Pedal Extension

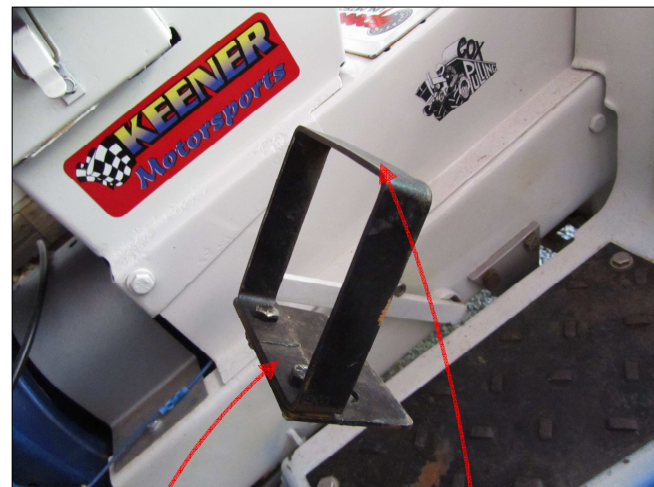
In order to operate a pulling tractor effectively, the puller must have solid control of steering as well as the clutch and gas pedals. Most pullers have no problem, however, occasionally a puller might be small in stature. Examples might be a small woman or a child.

What to do? Well, adjusting the seat is one possible solution, but most garden tractors that are modified for pulling simply don't have an adjustable seat. Most pulling seats are stationary.

But there is another solution. Rather than forcing the puller's foot to the pedal...think about bringing the pedal to the puller's foot. To accomplish this alteration, you need to add an extension to the pedal to make it closer to the puller's foot. If you think about it, there are various ways of doing this, but make sure the extension is stable and reliable to avoid injury or accident. The pedal extension should be constructed of a strong material such as metal, and welded securely in place. If you have the right equipment, home pedal extenders can be fabricated and installed easily in your own garage.

Keep these facts in mind when you prepare your extender for your child:

- ◇ You want to avoid your child's foot slipping off the pedal, so make sure he/she clearly understands where to place their foot. It's always good to practice before a pulling event.
- ◇ Make sure you allow for adequate space, both height and width, of the extender...in order to avoid a child's foot getting wedged in.
- ◇ Keep in mind, this is only 1 design. Many other solutions are possible, limited only by your imagination!



With a Pedal Extender in place, a puller can now opt to place their foot directly on the pedal (original position)...or...place their foot on top of the pedal extender.

If you have questions, ask your fellow-pullers, the sled-operator or any track official for help.

-end of tech tip-

Our Future Pullers—Watching Them Grow



MORE INFO:

This is a *free* monthly newsletter. To subscribe, go to the website address below and type 'Newsletter', your name and email address in the body of the email, then click 'Send'.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please go to the website address below and type 'Remove', your name and email address in the body of the email, then click 'Send'.

To suggest a subject for our next Newsletter, become a Sponsor, or ask a question, go to the website address below and submit your suggestion or request.

Thank you! And Happy Pulling!

www.pullinggardentractors.com/contact