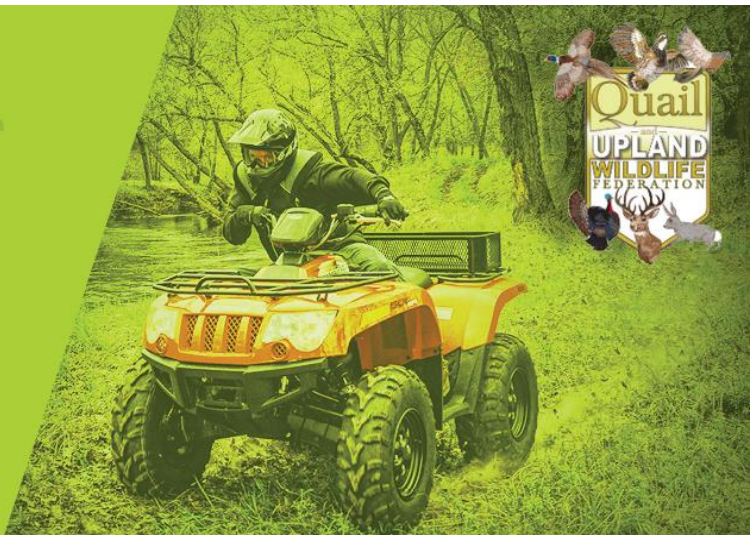


# SPRAYING WITH AN ATV



One of the great uses for the Arctic Cat ATV is spraying. Many try it and have varying results or failure, and they may struggle to figure out why they use such a great amount of chemical per acre. Well hopefully, we will give you a few hints.

## 1 CHOOSING A SPRAYER

First, select a good sprayer. Many cheap sprayers are out there, but spend a little extra and get one that will last and uses generic parts you can replace in any farm supply store. It has to have an adjustable pressure gauge.

We chose a 25-gallon version, as it allows us to spray two acres easily and does not upset the center of gravity of the ATV. Normally, as a rough rule, it will take 10 gallons of chemical mix with water to cover an acre (always read the label).

For example, we use Roundup mixed at about five ounces per gallon to remove grasses and weeds from the food plot. When we have shrubby oaks, we use up to eight ounces per gallon.

## 2 PREPPING THE SPRAYER

Mount the sprayer on the rear rack of the ATV. Most sprayers now have the two wire plug-ins, making it very fast to hook power to the pump. This version has a direct hook to the battery.

We placed a towel under the boom spraying unit we have to keep from scratching the racks; you can use rubber strips, as well. Two tie-down straps keep the unit steady and in place. Double check all is secure and the connections are good. The boom sprayer pictured allows us to cover about 15 feet of ground at a good, consistent concentration as we pass over at all speeds. We unfold the booms when we get to the field.

## 3 SETTING THE SPRAYER PRESSURE

Setting the pressure is another detail that will probably take some experimenting. We found that setting the pressure at 40 PSI PRIOR to turning on the booms gives a 20-pound pressure when the booms are on. This combined with a proper speed gives us the 10-gallon-per-acre application we desire.

Turn the handle on top of the gauge to adjust the sprayer pressure. If using just the wand, then you can set the pressure higher to be able to reach farther, maybe 50 or 60 pounds. Choose a sprayer with a good wand, or buy a good one and add it to the unit. Remember to take it off for the winter and store it in a warm location.

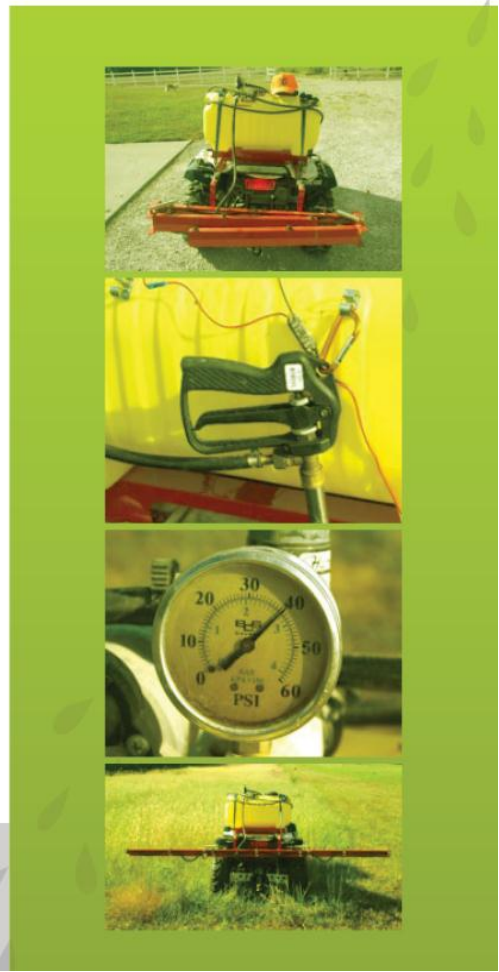
## 4 APPLYING THE CHEMICAL

The BIGGEST problem with using an ATV sprayer: speed, and not enough of it. Some ATV sprayers suggest a speed of 4 to 5 mph if at all, but it may be closer to 6 or 7 mph, depending on your pressure and sprayer nozzle sizes (use the smallest, in most cases). Same with a tractor: Most people not familiar with spraying just go too slow and use too much chemical in a very short time.

With our booms open, we lined up to hit the field with good coverage. This field is a tad over one acre, but using the settings above and holding about 6 mph, we used 10 gallons of mix. We had about a foot over-spray per pass to be sure we covered it all.

## 5 STORING THE SPRAYER

When done, flush the sprayer out with water, and if you are done for the season, put about two gallons of RV antifreeze in the tank and pump it through until all goes pink to protect it for the winter freezes. Take the wand off and tape up the end of the hose. You can duct tape plastic bags over the nozzle heads to keep spiders and other critters out of the nozzles. Spray the hinges with WD-40 if you have a folding version like ours.



“Making a Difference for Wildlife,  
One Acre at a Time”