

History of Toyota Trucks

If you had to describe to someone in one word what a Toyota Truck is, it would be *dependable*. The first Toyota truck was produced in Japan in 1935. It was the model G1. Farmers predominantly used the truck at the time, and the trucks were used for early military units until more advanced models were produced. Years later, the first Toyota “Stout” was introduced to America in 1964. However, the Stout was not well received.

In 1969, the little truck that could...and did— was very well received in America. The Toyota Hilux (aka) “Pickup Truck” was introduced and it raised the bar for other truck manufactures across the globe. To this date, Toyota Hilux owners swear by the old 20R engine and say it was the best. The short bed Hilux was first introduced, eventually evolving to the long bed, and from rear wheel drive to front wheel, and all wheel drive from the late ‘70s and into the ‘80s. Once again, Toyota was way ahead of its time in producing a well-manufactured and dependable product just when the American public needed it.

Out of the many Toyota truck owners’ stories, the Hilux is the one that you will hear them sing praises over and over again about its overall performance and longevity. Jim Kelly in Stone Mountain, Georgia, owned a 1977 Toyota Hilux long bed. He owned and operated a landscaping business and the little truck hauled his mowing and landscaping equipment without ever missing a beat. When he finally decided to sell the truck, it had 501,000 miles on it. He sold the truck to a young man that wanted to buy it for his father. Yes, the truck was still running, and it still had most of its original equipment that came with it.

Kelly said, “I never worried about gettin’ in it, and gettin’ back; the motor ran like a sewing machine. It had the old 20R engine in it, which, in my opinion, was the best engine Toyota ever made. And when it came to buying tires, due to its light weight, a set of good tires were hard to wear out on that little truck. It was the best truck in the world.”

Although you would be hard pressed to find the little Hilux sold in the U.S. these days, it is sold internationally; however, you will find its offspring. From the larger, yet energy efficient and award-winning lines of Tacoma and Tundra, they are sure to be history in the making, as well. These trucks are beautiful, economic, tough as nails, and yes...dependable.

Reference:

http://www.ehow.com/about_5394252_history-toyota-pickup.html