

## CHAPTER 52

# WEEDS AND GRASS

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**52.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to beautify and preserve the appearance of the City by requiring property owners and occupants to maintain grass lawns at a uniform height within the boundaries of their property and on abutting street right of way in order to prevent unsightly, offensive or nuisance conditions.

**52.02 DEFINITIONS.** For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Curb," "curb line" or "curbing" means the outer boundaries of a street at the edge of that portion of the street usually traveled by vehicular traffic.
2. "Cut" or "mow" means to mechanically maintain the growth of grass, weeds or brush at a uniform height.
3. "Owner" means a person owning private property in the City and any person occupying private property in the City.
4. "Parking" means that part of a street in the City not covered by a sidewalk and lying between the lot line or property line and the curb line; or on unpaved streets, that part of the street lying between the lot line or property line and that portion of the street usually traveled by vehicular traffic.

**52.03 CUTTING SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.**

1. Every owner shall cut, mow and maintain all grass, weeds and brush upon the owner's property (whether vacated or non-vacated) and adjacent to the curb line or outer boundary of any street, which includes the parking area abutting the owner's property, any time the vegetation reaches a height of more than six inches in the month of April, May, June, July, August, September and October of each year.
2. Every owner shall cut, mow and maintain grass, weeds and brush adjacent to the curb line, including the parking area abutting the owner's property, in such a manner so as to be in conformity with and at an even height with all other grass, weeds or brush growing on the remainder of the owner's property.

*(Section 52.03 – Ord. 2021-3 – Dec. 23 Supp.)*

**52.04 NOXIOUS WEEDS.**

1. Every owner shall cut and control noxious weeds upon the owner's property (whether vacated or non-vacated) and adjacent to the curb line or outer boundary of any street, which includes the parking area abutting the owner's property, by cutting noxious weeds to ground level or use of herbicides to eliminate or eradicate such weeds.
2. Noxious weeds include any weed growth or plant designated as noxious by the State Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations or by the *Code of Iowa*.

**52.05 PENALTY.** The City or their agents may mow any property, which is not mowed within 48 hours or being served notice via door hanger. A charge of \$75.00 per hour for mowing, plus a surcharge of \$100.00, will be charged to the property owner. Any property owners who fail to mow their properties, thus allowing the same to be mowed by the City or their agents, and who do not provide payment for the mowing as required, will be assessed by the City for such costs, which will be collected in the same manner as general property taxes.

*(Ord. 2021-3 – Dec. 23 Supp.)*

**52.06 METHOD OF SERVICE AND BILLING.** Annual publication of this chapter will serve as notice to the property owners. Any billings for mowing done by the City or their agents are to be sent by regular mail and are payable within 30 days of the billing date.

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