

City of Union Code of Ordinances

WEEDS AND GRASS

52.01 Purpose

52.02 Definitions

52.03 Cutting Specifications and Standards of Practice

52.04 Uniform Height Specifications

52.05 Noxious Weeds

52.06 Notice to Abate

52.07 Fees

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 and adjacent to the curb line or outer boundary of any street, which includes the parking area abutting the owner’s property, to a uniform height as defined in Section 52.04.
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.

52.04 UNIFORM HEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS. Grass, weeds or brush shall be cut, mowed and maintained so as not to exceed the following height specifications:

1. Developed Residential Areas — not to exceed six inches (6”).
2. Undeveloped Residential Areas — not to exceed eight inches (8”).
3. Business and Industrial Areas — not to exceed six inches (6”).
4. Agriculture Areas — not to exceed fifteen inches (15”).

Grass, weeds and brush which are allowed to grow in excess of the above specified limitations are deemed to be violations of this chapter.

52.05 NOXIOUS WEEDS.

1. Every owner shall cut and control noxious weeds upon the owner's property 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.

52.06 NOTICE TO ABATE. Upon discovery of any violations of this chapter, the City may within five (5) days initiate abatement procedures as outlined in Chapter 50 of this Code of Ordinances.

52.07 FEES.

1. The City is authorized to charge fees to a property owner for the abatement of grass, weeds and brush. The fees for cutting grass, weeds or brush by the City as a result of abatement proceedings under this chapter and Chapter 50 shall be as follows:

For Abating Grass, Weeds, & Brush	Base Fee	Additional Charges
First time in one calendar year	\$100.00	Time incurred mowing measured in tenths of an hour x hourly wages paid
Second time in one calendar year	\$150.00	Time incurred mowing measured in tenths of an hour x hourly wages paid
Third and subsequent time in one calendar year	\$250.00	Time incurred mowing measured in tenths of an hour x hourly wages paid

2. Fees imposed under this section shall be collected by the City in the manner provided for in Subsection 50.05(6) of this Code of Ordinances. This section shall not be the exclusive remedy for the City and shall not prohibit the City from pursuing alternative methods of enforcement of any violation of this Code of Ordinances or seeking any civil or criminal penalties allowed under this Code of Ordinances or Iowa law. The City may use said alternative methods and penalties in lieu of or in addition to the imposition of the fees set forth in this section.