

CHAPTER 52

WEEDS AND GRASS

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52.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to preserve and promote the health and safety and 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 REQUIREMENT TO CUT AND MAINTAIN GRASS AND WEEDS. Every owner shall cut, mow and maintain all grass, weeds and brush upon the owner’s property and upon the parking area abutting the owner’s property to a uniform height as defined in Section 52.04.

52.04 UNIFORM HEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS.

1. Grass, weeds and brush shall be cut, mowed and maintained at a height not to exceed eight (8) inches upon all property used for residential uses in the HD (Holding District), any RS (Residential Single-Family District), any RM (Residential Multi-Family District), the MH (Manufactured Housing District), the HC (Highway

Commercial District), the CBC (Central Business Commercial District), and the LI (Light Industrial District) Districts as established by the zoning regulations and Official Zoning Map of the City of Jefferson.

2. The owner of an undeveloped tract or combination of tracts consisting of a contiguous area of more than one acre in any of the districts described in subsection 1 above will not be required to maintain the mowing height provided in subsection 1 if such owner obtains from the Building and Zoning Official of the City of Jefferson a permit to plant such area to alfalfa or grass hay, which area shall nonetheless be maintained in a neat and weed free condition. Such permit must be obtained in advance of planting such area to hay each year and will be effective for only one growing season at a time.

52.05 NOXIOUS WEEDS.

1. Every owner shall cut and control noxious weeds upon the owner's property and on the parking area abutting the owner's property, by cutting noxious weeds to ground level or by 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 DECLARATION OF NUISANCE. A violation of this chapter is declared to be a nuisance in the City, and upon discovery of any violation of this chapter, the City may proceed with nuisance abatement procedures as specified in Chapter 50 of this Code of Ordinances.

52.07 REPEAT NOTICES NOT REQUIRED. The notice to abate a nuisance as described in this chapter may contain a notice that instructs the owner that the notice constitutes notice for the balance of the summer and that further action will be taken by the City to remedy the problem if it occurs again on the same property without additional written notice being given. Any property owner who violates the provisions of this chapter will be given one (1) notice per summer and the City will be authorized to respond to additional violations without additional written notice being given.

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