

CHAPTER 52
WEEDS AND GRASS

52.01 Purpose	52.04 Noxious Weeds
52.02 Definitions	52.05 Penalty
52.03 Cutting Specifications and Standards of Practice	52.06 Method of Service and Billing

52.02 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 own property and on abutting street rights-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 10 inches by the fifteenth day of the month in 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.

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 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 by the above dates and a charge of \$75.00 per hour of such 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.

52.06 METHOD OF SERVICE AND BILLING. Annual publication of this chapter will serve as notice to 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.

[The next page is 331]

ORDINANCE 2024-8

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MURRAY, IOWA, 2022, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION REGARDING WEEDS AND GRASS

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Murray, Iowa:

SECTION 1. SECTION MODIFIED. Chapter 52, Section 52.05 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Murray, Iowa, 2022, is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

52.05 PENALTY. The City of their agents may mow any property, which is not mowed by the above dates and a charge of \$100.00 per hour for such mowing, plus a surcharge of \$150.00, 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 of 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.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 3. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the Council the 15th day of May, 2024, and approved this 15th day of May, 2024.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

First Reading 5-15-24

Second Reading waived 5-15-24

Third Reading waived 5-15-24