CHAPTER 52

WEEDS AND GRASS

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. If a property owner fails to cut, mow and maintain all grass, weeds and brush or fails to cut and control noxious weeds upon the owner's property, a notice of the action of the Council to provide for cutting and mowing lawns and lots shall be served on the property owner directing said property owner to cut or mow such lawns and lots within a specified time. The notice shall be served either personally or by mailing a notice to the owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the owner. The notice will set forth the address of the property in question and will instruct the landowner that this 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.

[The next page is 187]