

City of Brownsdale WEED Ordinance

Amendment subsection A

JURISDICTION

This subchapter shall be in addition to any state statute or regulation or county ordinance presently in effect, subsequently added, amended or previously repealed.

DEFINITIONS; EXCLUSIONS.

(A) For the purpose of this subchapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

DESTRUCTION ORDER. The notice served by the City Council or designated city official, in cases of appeal, on the property owner of the ordinance violation that shall conform to M.S. ' 18.83, Subd. 2, as it may be amended from time to time.

MEADOW VEGETATION. Grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are native to, or adapted to, the state of Minnesota, and that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities, except weeds as defined herein.

PROPERTY OWNER. The person occupying the property, the holder of legal title or a person having control over the property of another, such as a right-of-way, easement, license or lease.

WEEDS, GRASSES and RANK VEGETATION. Includes but is not limited to the following:

(a) Noxious weeds and rank vegetation shall include but not be limited to: alum (allium), Buckthorn, Bur Cucumber, Canada Thistle, Corncockle, Cressleaf Groundsel, Curly Dock, Dodder, Field Bindweed, French Weed, Hairy Whitetop, Hedge Bindweed, Hoary Cress, Horsenettle, Johnsongrass, Leafy Spurge, Mile-A-Minute Weed, Musk Thistle, Oxeye Daisy, Perennial Sowthistle,

Poison Hemlock, Purple Loosestrife, Quackgrass, Russian Knapweed, Russian Thistle, Serrated Tussock, Shatter Cane, Sorghum, Wild Carrot, Wild Garlic, Wild Mustard, Wild Onion, Wild Parsnip;

(b) Grapevines when growing in groups of 100 or more and not pruned, sprayed, cultivated, or otherwise maintained for two consecutive years;

(c) Bushes of the species of tall, common, or European barberry, further known as *berberis vulgaris* or its horticultural varieties;

(d) Any weeds, grass, or plants, other than trees, bushes, flowers, or other ornamental plants, growing to a height exceeding 12 inches;

(e) Rank vegetation includes the uncontrolled, uncultivated growth of annuals and perennial plants;

(f) The term **WEEDS** does not include shrubs, trees, cultivated plants or crops.

(g) Any other weed designated by M.S. ' 18.77, Subd. 8, as it may be amended from time to time, as noxious.

(B) In no event shall cultivated plants or crops include plants which have been defined by state statute or administrative rule as being noxious or detrimental plants.

OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRIMMING, REMOVAL AND THE LIKE.

(A) All property owners shall be responsible for the removal, cutting, or disposal and elimination of weeds, grasses and rank vegetation or other uncontrolled plant growth on their property, which at the time of notice, is in excess of 12 inches in height.

(B) These provisions shall not apply to an area established with meadow vegetation if:

The prior vegetation is eliminated and the meadow vegetation is planted through transplanting or seed by human or mechanical means; and

FILING COMPLAINT.

Any person, including the city, who believes there is property located within the corporate limits of the city which has growing plant matter in violation of this subchapter shall make a written complaint signed, dated and filed with the City Clerk. If the city makes the complaint, an employee, officer or Council Member of the city shall file the complaint in all respects as set out above.

NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS.

(A) Upon receiving notice of the probable existence of weeds in violation of this subchapter, a person designated by the City Council shall inspect and notify City Police Officer to issue a notice to homeowner, occupant, renter or caretaker to rectify the weed complaint within 5 days. If the violation is not correct an administrative citation will be issued in the amount of \$25.00 daily until rectified. This fine will be charged to your city utility account. If this fee is not paid the city will assess this payment to your property taxes to be collected at the end of the year.

APPEALS.

(A) The property owner may appeal by filing written notice of objections with the City Council within 48 hours of the notice, excluding weekends and holidays, if the property owner contests the finding of the City Council. It is the property owner's responsibility to demonstrate that the matter in question is shrubs, trees, cultivated plants or crops or is not otherwise in violation of this subchapter, and should not be subject to destruction under the subchapter.

(B) An appeal by the property owner shall be brought before the City Council and shall be decided by a majority vote of the Council Members in attendance and at a regularly scheduled.

ABATEMENT BY CITY.

In the event that the property owner shall fail to comply with the **rectification** Order within 5 days and has not filed a notice within 48 hours to the City Clerk of an intent to appeal, the City Council may employ the services of city employees or outside contractors and remove the weeds to conform to this subchapter by all lawful means. No person shall enter the property to abate the nuisance, except with the permission of the owner, resident or other person in control of the property. The city related charge for mowing is \$75.00 per time, billed to your city utility account. If this fee is not paid the city will assess this payment to your property taxes to be collected at the end of the year.

LIABILITY.

(A) The property owner is liable for all costs of removal, cutting or destruction of weeds as defined by this subchapter.

(B) The property owner is responsible for all collection costs associated with weed destruction, including but not limited to court costs, attorney's fees and interest on any unpaid amounts incurred by the city. If the city uses municipal employees, it shall set and assign an appropriate per hour rate for employees, equipment, supplies and chemicals which may be used.

(C) All sums payable by the property owner are to be paid to the City Clerk and to be deposited in a general fund as compensation for expenses and costs incurred by the city.

(D) All sums payable by the property owner may be collected as a special assessment as provided by
M.S. ' 429.101, as it may be amended from time to time.