

TITLE VI PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 14 LAWN HEIGHT SPECIFICATION

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6-14-1 PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance 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 right-of-way in order to prevent unsightly, offensive or nuisance conditions. Grass shall be cut before becoming a nuisance, a breeding place for mosquitoes or a harboring place for deposits of refuse.

6-14-2 DEFINITIONS. For use in this Ordinance, the following terms are defined:

1. The terms "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. The terms "cut or mow" means to mechanically maintain the growth of grass at a uniform height.

3. The term "property owner" means the contract purchaser if there is one of record, otherwise the record holder of legal title as shown by the records of the County Auditor.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12(1))

4. The term "parking" means the part of a street, avenue or highway 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.

6-14-3 CUTTING SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS.

1. Every property owner shall cut, mow and maintain all grass upon the property owner's property and adjacent to the curb line or outer boundary of any street, which shall include the parking area abutting the property owner's property, to a uniform height as defined in Section 6-14-4.

2. Every property owner shall cut, mow and maintain grass 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 grasses growing on the remainder of the owner's property.

3. Agricultural areas are exempted from Subsections 1 and 2 herein, except for the area within one hundred (100) feet of the property line where adjoining an improved street, alley or developed property including all areas between the property line and the centerline of a street, alley or easement.

6-14-4 UNIFORM HEIGHT SPECIFICATIONS. Grass shall be cut, mowed and maintained so as not to exceed the following height specifications:

1. Developed Residential Areas not to exceed eight (8) inches.
2. Undeveloped Residential Areas not to exceed eight (8) inches.
3. Business and Industrial Areas not to exceed eight (8) inches.
4. Agricultural Areas not exempted by Section 6-14-3 not to exceed eight (8) inches.

Grass which is allowed to grow in excess of the uniform height specifications shall be deemed to be a violation of this chapter.

6-14-5 ABATEMENT PROCEDURE. Whenever the Mayor or other authorized municipal officer discovers a violation of this ordinance, such officer shall cause to be served upon the property owner a written notice to abate the nuisance within seven (7) days.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12(3)(h))

6-14-6 METHOD OF SERVICE. The notice may be served by certified mail or personal service to the property owner as shown by records of the County Auditor.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12(3)01))

6-14-7 CHARGES AND PENALTY. Any property not mowed as specified in this Ordinance, as determined by city officials, may be mowed by the City or its agents at a charge of \$75.00 per hour per person for mowing, plus any costs to repair equipment damaged by such mowing, plus a surcharge of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) will be charged to the property owner. Entry on the property by the City or its agents for the purpose of mowing under this chapter may be made without the consent of the property' owner or person in possession or control of the land. If the property owner has two or more violations of this ordinance within twelve (12) months the surcharge will be increased by twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each subsequent violation.

6-14-8 COLLECTION OF CHARGES. The City Clerk shall mail a statement of the total expense incurred to the property owner who has failed to abide by the notice to abate, and if the amount shown by the statement has not been paid within thirty (30) days, the City Clerk shall certify the costs to the County Treasurer and they shall then be collected in the same manner as general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12(3)(h))

