

· **CHAPTER 945 - Weeds and Grass¹⁷¹**

Sections:

· **945.01 - DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

(a) *Grass* means any of a large family (gramineae) of monocotyledonous, mostly herbaceous plants with hollow, jointed stems, slender sheathing leaves, and flowers borne in spikelets of bracts.

(b) *Noxious* designation can be given to weeds for several reasons including: toxicity to humans or animals, invasiveness, negative impact to abutting properties or natural areas, potential to cause economical loss, or threat to public health and safety.

(c) *Noxious weed* means any type or species that have been included on the official list of noxious plants for the State of Ohio under Ohio Revised Code (901:5-37).

(d) *Weed* means a plant that is considered undesirable, unattractive or troublesome. A plant that is not grown in an ornamental bed, is not valued where it is growing and tends to overgrow more desirable plants.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03; [Ord. No. 0087-2017, § 1\(Exh. A\), 11-20-17](#))

· **945.02 - DETERMINATION OF NUISANCE; ABATEMENT.**

When determined by the Director of Public Service and Engineering through the Planning and Zoning Administrator that weeds and other undesirable vegetation exceeding the height specified in [Section 945.06](#) exist upon any lots and lands within the City, and constitute a nuisance or endanger the public health, it shall be the duty of the Director of Public Service and Engineering through the Planning and Zoning Administrator to see that such noxious weeds and grass are removed or such nuisance abated. The City or its designee shall have the right to enter any property in order to carry out such nuisance abatement.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03; Ord. No. [0032-2016, § 1\(Exh. A\), 4-18-16](#))

· **945.03 - SERVICE OF NOTICE.**

The Director of Public Service and Engineering through the Planning and Zoning Administrator shall cause written notice to be served upon the owners and lessees, agents or tenants having charge of such lots and lands referred to in [Section 945.02](#), notifying them that noxious weeds or weeds and grass of profuse and unmanageable growth growing eight inches or more tall are growing on such lots and lands, and that they must be cut or destroyed within five days after the service of such notice. The notice shall be either handed to the occupant or a representative of the business, or placed on the front of the house/structure in clear view from the street. For vacant lots, the notice shall be mailed to the owner of record, and the five day from notice compliance date shall be observed. The property shall be re-inspected on the sixth day after the service of such notice. If the violation still exists, a citation shall be issued and the grass cut by the City's designee.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03; Ord. No. [0032-2016, § 1\(Exh. A\), 4-18-16](#))

945.04 - FAILURE TO COMPLY; REMEDY.

Upon failure of any owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of the lots and lands under the provisions of [Section 945.02](#), to comply with the notice within the period of time stipulated under the provisions of [Section 945.03](#), the Planning and Zoning Administrator shall authorize a lawn maintenance contractor to cut the weeds, ~~or~~ grass, or other undesirable vegetation on behalf of the City.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03.)

945.05 - RETURN TO COUNTY AUDITOR.

Upon the performance of the labor under the provisions of [Section 945.04](#), the Director of Finance shall make a return in writing to the Auditor of Franklin County of such charges, which shall be entered upon the tax duplicate of the County, all in accordance with Ohio R.C. 731.54.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03.)

945.06 - NOXIOUS WEEDS OR GRASS.

Every person owning, leasing, renting, having charge of or being in possession of land within this City shall keep such property, and adjacent right-of-way between such property, and the curb, or edge of pavement where there is no curb, free and clear from all noxious weeds, such as Bamboo, Burdock, Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Jimson Weed, Ragweed, ~~Milkweed~~, Mullein, Poison Ivy, and other vegetation of profuse and unmanageable growth. Noxious weeds and grass grown on such property and adjacent right-of-way shall be maintained in such a manner so as not to exceed eight inches in height.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03; [Ord. No. 0087-2017, § 1\(Exh. A\), 11-20-17](#))

945.07 - MOWING FEES.

The fee charged by the lawn maintenance company, contracted by the City to cut the grass, shall be presented to the Franklin County Auditor per [Section 945.05](#). In addition, a ~~\$75.00~~ \$100.00 administrative processing fee shall be charged by the City and added to the tax duplicate of the County.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03.)

945.08 - EXEMPTIONS.

Areas cultivated specifically as a wildflower area, vegetable garden, natural area for birds and other wildlife, or other areas determined by the City's designee. ~~These specific areas shall maintain a 5' grass buffer to any property line.~~ Also exempted is land currently used for agricultural purposes, existing naturalized areas along drainage channels on designated scenic roads, and areas posted by the City as do not mow.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03.)

945.99 - PENALTY.

Whoever violates any provision of this [chapter](#) is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(Ord. 0156-2003. Passed 8-4-03.)