

ORDINANCE NO. 204, 2025
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING SECTION 20-42 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF
FORT COLLINS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADJUSTING WEED
AND GRASS REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS

A. For many years, Section 20-42 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins declared weeds and unmowed grasses exceeding a height of six inches to be a nuisance and menace to the health and safety of the inhabitants of the city.

B. Staff has determined that it is in the public interest to increase the allowable height of weeds and unmowed grasses under City Code to support pollinator species and provide more flexibility for property owners who are unable to maintain their yards during wetter seasons when grasses grow more quickly.

C. At the same time, maintaining aesthetic limits on the heights of weeds and unmowed grasses helps prevent nuisance conditions within the city.

D. Staff has recommended this Ordinance to increase the maximum allowable height for weeds and unmowed grasses under City Code Section 20-42 to nine inches.

E. This Ordinance is anticipated to reduce overall contractor costs and case management responsibilities for the City's Code Compliance team.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that Section 20-42 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20-42. - Weeds, unmowed grasses, refuse and rubbish nuisances prohibited.

. . .

(c) It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of any property to permit weeds to grow upon such property to a height of more than **nine (9)**~~six (6)~~ inches.

(d) Except as is provided in Subsection (e), (f) or (g) of this Section, it is unlawful for the owner or occupant of any property to permit grasses to grow upon such property to a height of more than **nine (9)**~~six (6)~~ inches; provided, however, that this Subsection shall not be applicable to any ornamental grass so long as it is used solely or in combination with any other ornamental grass or grasses, as a supplement to the property's overall landscaped area and does not constitute in square footage more than twenty (20) percent of the property's overall landscaped area.

. . .

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on December 2, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on December 16, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: December 26, 2025
Approving Attorney: Madelene Shehan

Exhibit: None