

Sec. 82-1. - Grass and weeds ~~on private property~~.

(a) It is unlawful for any owner, occupant or agent of any lot or parcel of land in the city, to allow any weeds or grass growing upon any such lot or parcel of land to grow to a greater height than eight inches ~~or to allow such weeds or grass to go to seed~~, unless such grass ~~or seed~~ is brome grass or alfalfa, which is cut, baled and removed from the premises according to normal farming practices.

(1) The provision of subparagraph (a) does not apply to any area within Industrial and Agricultural zoning districts, as defined in Chapter 86 Zoning, provided that the area with grass exceeding 8 inches in height is located at least 200 feet from the nearest occupiable building and 100 feet from such building on the same lot; and at least 50 feet from the public right of way, a sidewalk, bike path, parking lot, or any other site feature reasonably expected to be visited by the general public on a regular basis.

(2) The provision of subparagraph (a) does not apply, with the approval of the City Engineer, in all zoning districts within 15 feet of the top of the slope of any permanent body of water such as a pond or a river.

(3) The provision of subparagraph (a) does not apply to City owned agriculturally zoned land maintained as weeded prairie, pollinators, meadow or natural landscape vegetation that does not contain noxious weed growth and that includes the cultivation of native grasses indigenous to Minnesota; and native vegetation shall be cut at least once annually between April 15 and July 15 to a height no greater than ten inches.

(b) If any such owner, occupant or agent fails to comply with this height limitation and, after notice given by the city clerk, has not within seven days of such notice complied, the city shall cause such weeds or grass to be cut and the expenses thus incurred shall be a lien upon such real estate. The finance director shall certify to the county auditor a statement of the amount of the cost incurred by the city. Such amount, together with interest, shall be entered as a special assessment against such lot or parcel of land and be collected in the same manner as real estate taxes.

(Code 1976, § 10.25; Ord. No. 723 2nd Series, § 1, 8-8-2017)

State Law reference— Minnesota Noxious Weed Law, Minn. Stat. § 18.75 et seq.; special assessment authorized, Minn. Stat. § 429.101.