

ARTICLE 3. WEEDS

8-301. WEEDS TO BE REMOVED. It shall be unlawful for any owner, agent, lessee, tenant, or other person occupying or having charge or control of any premises to permit weeds to remain upon said premises or any area between the property lines of said premises and the centerline of any adjacent street or alley, including but not specifically limited to sidewalks, streets, alleys, easements, rights-of-way and all other areas, public or private, but excluding the street from curb line to curb line which will be the responsibility of the city. All weeds as hereinafter defined are hereby declared a nuisance and are subject to abatement as hereinafter provided. (Ord. 1082, Sec. 1; Code 2003)

8-302. DEFINITIONS. Weeds as used herein, means any of the following:

- (a) Brush and woody vines shall be classified as weeds;
- (b) Weeds and grasses which may attain such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property;
- (c) Weeds which bear or may bear seeds of a downy or wingy nature.
- (d) Weeds which are located in an area which harbors rats, insects, animals, reptiles, or any other creature which either may or does constitute a menace to health, public safety or welfare;
- (e) Weeds and grasses on or about residential property which, because of its height, has a blighting influence on the neighborhood. Any such weeds and indigenous grasses shall be presumed to be blighting if they exceed 12 inches in height.

(Ord. 1082, Sec. 1; Code 2003)

8-303. PUBLIC OFFICER; NOTICE TO REMOVE. The city administrator shall designate a public officer to be charged with the administration and enforcement of this article. The public officer or an authorized assistant shall notify in writing the owner, occupant or agent in charge of any premises in the city upon which weeds exist in violation of this ordinance, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service, once per calendar year. Such notice shall include the following:

- (a) That the owner, occupant or agent in charge of the property is in violation of the city weed control law.

(b) That the owner, occupant, or agent in charge of the property is ordered to cut the weeds within 5 days of the receipt of notice.

(c) That the owner, occupant or agent in charge of the property may request a hearing before the governing body or its designated representative within five days of the receipt of notice.

(d) That if the owner, occupant or agent in charge of the property does not cut the weeds, the city or its authorized agent will cut the weeds and assess the cost of the cutting, including a reasonable administrative fee, against the owner, occupant or agent in charge of the property.

(e) That the owner, occupant or agent in charge of the property will be given an opportunity to pay the assessment, and, if it is not paid, it will be added to the property tax as a special assessment.

(f) That no further notice shall be given prior to removal of weeds during the current calendar year.

(g) That the public officer should be contacted if there are any questions regarding the order.

(h) In lieu of abatement the city may file a complaint in Municipal Court

If there is a change in the record owner of title to property subsequent to the giving of notice pursuant to this subsection, the city may not recover any costs or levy an assessment for the costs incurred by the cutting or destruction of weeds on such property unless the new record owner of title to such property is provided notice as required by this section. (Ord. 1082, Sec. 1; Code 2003)

8-304. ABATEMENT; ASSESSMENT OF COSTS. (a) Upon the expiration of 5 days after receipt of the notice required by section 8-303, and in the event that the owner, occupant or agent in charge of the premises shall neglect or fail to comply with the requirements of section 8-301, the public officer or an authorized assistant shall cause to be cut, destroyed and/or removed all such weeds and abate the nuisance created thereby at any time during the current calendar year, in lieu of abatement a complaint may be filed in Municipal Court.

(b) PUBLICATION NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS. The city clerk shall, at least once each year during the months of May, June, July or August, cause to be published in the official city paper a notice in substantially the following form:

(c) NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND PERSONS IN

CHARGE OF PROPERTY. All property owners and persons in charge or possession of any tract, lot or piece of land in the City of Ulysses, Kansas are hereby notified that all weeds and obnoxious vegetation now growing on private property in the City of Ulysses, Kansas, must be cut and removed within 5-days of this public notice.

(d) If the cost of the removal or abatement is not paid within the 30-day period following receipt of the notice, the cost shall be collected in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,115, and amendments thereto, or shall be assessed as special assessments against the lot or parcel of land on which the weeds were so removed, and against such lots or parcels of land in front of or abutting on such street or alley on which such weeds were removed, and the city clerk, at the time of certifying other city taxes, shall certify the costs and the county clerk shall extend the same on the tax rolls of the county against such lot or parcel of land and it shall be collected by the county treasurer and paid to the city as other city taxes are collected and paid. The city may pursue collection both by levying a special assessment and in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,115, and amendments thereto, but only until the full cost and applicable interest has been paid in full.

(K.S.A. 12-1617f; Ord. 1082, Sec. 1; Code 2003)

- 8-305. **RIGHT OF ENTRY.** The public officer, and the public officer's authorized assistants, employees, contracting agents or other representatives are hereby expressly authorized to enter upon private property at all reasonable hours for the purpose of cutting, destroying and/or removing such weeds in a manner not inconsistent with this article. (Ord. 1082, Sec. 1; Code 2003)
- 8-306. **UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE.** It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with or to attempt to prevent the public officer or the public officer's authorized representative from entering upon any such lot or piece of ground or from proceeding with such cutting and destruction. Such interference shall constitute a code violation. (Ord. 1082, Sec. 1; Code 2003)
- 8-307. **NOXIOUS WEEDS.** (a) Nothing in this article shall affect or impair the rights of the city under the provisions of Chapter 2, Article 13 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, relating to the control and eradication of certain noxious weeds.
- (b) For the purpose of this section, the term noxious weeds shall mean kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea picris*), hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia*

esula), burragweed (*Franseria tomentosa* and *discolor*), pignut (*Hoffmannseggia densiflora*), musk (nodding) thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.), and Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), and sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*).
(K.S.A. 2-1314; Ord. 1082, Sec. 1; Code 2003)