

ARTICLE III. WEED ELIMINATION**Sec. 34-111. Weeds declared a nuisance; duty of owner.**

(a) Any weeds, whether noxious or not as defined by state law, or turf grass growing at a height greater than six inches upon any privately owned lot or tract of land in the city or upon any public boulevard or similar public property alongside the traveled portion of a street or alley abutting the private property are hereby declared to be a nuisance, except as authorized in Section 34-117. Turf grass is any type of vegetative grasses used for recreational or residential purposes.

(b) The owner or occupant of any such property or abutting property shall prevent the nuisance, and if the nuisance occurs, the owner or occupant shall cut and remove the weeds from the property or cut the turf grass to a height of less than six inches.

(Ord. No. 2258-03, 12-1-2003 Sec. 3; Ord. No. 2355-08, 6-13-2008)

Sec. 34-112. Notice; abatement and assessment.

(a) When an owner or occupant permits the nuisance to exist in violation of section 34-111, the city shall serve notice ordering abatement of the nuisance on the owner of the property. When no owner or agent of the owner can be found, notice shall be sent by certified mail to the person who is listed on the records of the county auditor or county treasurer as the owner. Services will be completed upon mailing.

(b) The notice shall order removal of the nuisance within two days after the service of the notice and shall also state that if the nuisance is not abated within the time allowed, the city will remove the nuisance at the owner's expense. If those expenses are not paid prior to the following September 1, the charge for the work will be made a special assessment against the property.

Sec. 34-113. Reserved.**ARTICLE IV. VEGETATION MAINTENANCE**

Sec. 34-114. Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to establish minimum standards for lawn maintenance while recognizing that a variety of landscapes within a community adds diversity and richness to the quality of life for all residents. Turf grass lawns continue to be recognized as the dominant feature in the landscape; however, alternatives to this traditional type of lawn are recognized as important parts of a diverse and successful landscape. A parcel with proposed Native Vegetation that exceeds 800 square feet or exceeds 25% of parcel surface area will require a Native Vegetation Permit.

(Ord. No. 2355-08, 6-13-2008)

Sec. 34-115. Definitions. The following terms when used in this Article shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Maintenance Plan" – a document submitted with an application for a Native Vegetation Permit demonstrating a precise course of maintenance for numerous individual plants in a landscape over months and seasons.
- (b) "Native Vegetation" – those indigenous trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and other plants that have naturally adapted themselves to the climate and soils of the area but require cultivation and maintenance to remain viable.
- (c) "Native Vegetation Permit" – a permit issued by the City pursuant to this article allowing an owner or occupant to cultivate Native Vegetation upon his/her property. A Native Vegetation Permit exempts an owner or occupant from Section 34-116(c).

- (d) “Natural Habitat” – specially uncultivated, valued and sensitive habitat whereupon native vegetation exists in a pristine state and provides habitat for a variety of species native to the area. Such vegetation shall maintain itself in a stable condition with minimal human intervention.
- (e) “Noxious Weeds” – an annual, biennial, or perennial plant designated by state statute, the Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture or the City Council as injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, or other property.
- (f) “Rank Vegetation” – uncultivated vegetation growing at a rapid rate due to unplanned, unintentional, or accidental circumstances.
- (g) “Turf Grass” - cultivated vegetation consisting of a highly maintained surface of dense grass underlain by a thick root system.
- (h) “Weeds” – unsuitable, unwanted, or uncultivated vegetation, often causing injury to the desired vegetation type, excluding noxious weeds.

(Ord. No. 2355-08, 6-13-2008)

Sec. 34-116. Lawn Maintenance Requirements.

- (a) All lot areas not covered by buildings, designated parking areas, paths, driveways and impervious surface shall have planted Turf Grass, Native Vegetation, or combined ground cover of cultivated vegetation, garden, hedges, trees and shrubbery.
- (b) No owner or occupant of any lot shall allow any noxious weeds to grow on any part or portion of said lot.
- (c) No owner or occupant shall allow any Turf Grass, Weeds, or Rank Vegetation to grow to a height greater than six (6) inches on any lot or parcel of land.

(Ord. No. 2355-08, 6-13-2008; Ord. No. 2405-11, 10-28-11)

Sec. 34-117. Exemptions. The following land is exempt from the requirement of Section 34-116(c):

- (a) Vacant and unoccupied land consisting of a contiguous tract of one (1) acre, provided that Weeds, Turf Grass, Native Vegetation, and Rank Vegetation thereon are cut twice annually. The first cutting shall not be later than June 1, and the second cutting shall be made between July 15 and September 15.
- (b) Private lands designated by the City Council as Natural Habitat.
- (c) Public lands designated in the City’s Comprehensive Plan as Natural Habitat.
- (d) Native Vegetation, with a Native Vegetation Permit in accordance with Section 34-118.

(Ord. No. 2355-08, 6-13-2008)

Sec. 34-118. Native Vegetation Permit.

- (a) Permit. Upon satisfaction and completion of all the requirements of this section, the City Manager or designee shall issue a Native Vegetation Permit. A Native Vegetation Permit permits the permittee to cultivate Native Vegetation and exempts the property from Section 34-116(c). A Native Vegetation Permit shall be valid for five (5) years from the date of approval. The City Manager or designee shall not approve a Native Vegetation Permit for property with unresolved Code of Ordinance violations or administrative citations.

- (b) Application. The Application for a Native Vegetation Permit which shall be provided by the City Manager or designee shall contain the following:
 - (1) Statement of intent and purpose in cultivating Native Vegetation.
 - (2) Site plan showing lot lines, buildings, location of proposed Native Vegetation, the property's legal description, and corner visibility requirements as defined by Section 24-47 of the City Code.
 - (3) Latin and common names of the species the property owner or occupant plans to cultivate.
 - (4) Maintenance requirements for said species.
 - (5) Name and address of a professional landscaping company which has been hired to perform maintenance on the Native Vegetation; or the name, address, and qualifications of the person(s) who will be responsible for maintenance of the Native Vegetation.
 - (6) A Maintenance Plan, which shall contain the following:
 - a) Planting diagram showing the location and mature height of all specimens of Native Vegetation;
 - b) Detailed information on the upkeep of the plantings; and
 - c) Details of any long-term maintenance required for the Native Vegetation.

- (c) Revocation. The City Manager or designee may regularly inspect any property holding a Native Vegetation Permit for compliance with the Maintenance Plan on file with the City for the property. If any property is not in compliance with the Maintenance Plan, the permittee may be notified and ordered to bring the property into compliance with the approved permit within thirty (30) days. If the permittee falls to comply with the order, the City Manager or designee may:
 - (1) Revoke the Native Vegetation Permit;
 - (2) Remove all improperly maintained Native Vegetation;
 - (3) Declare the property ineligible for a Native Vegetation Permit, unless sold, for a period of two (2) years; and
 - (4) Assess the property for all costs associated with inspection of the property and any removal of improperly maintained Native Vegetation in accordance with Minnesota Statutes § 429.101.

(Ord. No. 2355-08, 6-13-2008)

Sec. 34-119. Penalty.

The violation of any provision of this Article is a misdemeanor and the violator shall be fined or penalized not more than the maximum levels established by the State of Minnesota for misdemeanor offenses. Each day on which the violation continues is a separate offense.

(Ord. No. 2355-08, 6-13-2008)

Secs. 34-120--34-209. Reserved.

ARTICLE V. FERTILIZER SALES AND APPLICATION**Sec. 34-210. Purpose.**

Studies have determined that lake water quality is affected by the amount of lawn fertilizer and other chemicals entering the lakes as a result of storm water runoff or other causes. The purpose of this article is to define regulations which will aid the city in managing and protecting its water resources which are enjoyed by its residents and other users.

(Ord. No. 2227-02, § 1, 6-3-2002)

Sec. 34-211. Definitions.

[The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:]

Commercial applicator is a person who is engaged in the business of applying fertilizer for hire.

Commercial retailer is any person, firm, corporation, franchise or commercial establishment providing goods and services for sale to the general public.

Fertilizer "means a substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients that is used for its plant nutrient content and designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth. Fertilizer does not include animal and vegetable manures that are not manipulated, marl, lime, limestone, and other products exempted by rule by the state commissioner of agriculture.

Noncommercial applicator is a person who applies fertilizer during the course of employment, but who is not a commercial lawn fertilizer applicator.

(Ord. No. 2227-02, § 1, 6-3-2002)

Sec. 34-212. Regulations for retail sale of commercial lawn fertilizers.

Commercial retailers providing lawn fertilizers for sale to the general public are subject to the following regulations:

- (1) Phosphorous-free fertilizers shall be made available for sale in adequate amounts at all locations in the city.
- (2) Phosphorous-free fertilizer and fertilizer with phosphorous must be separately displayed and clearly marked as to whether or not the fertilizer contains phosphorous.
- (3) A sign or brochure containing regulations and information about use of fertilizers containing phosphorous will be provided by the city and shall be prominently posted next to any fertilizer display.

(Ord. No. 2227-02, § 1, 6-3-2002)

Sec. 34-213. Regulations for lawn fertilizer applicators. *

Commercial and noncommercial lawn fertilizer applicators are subject to the following regulations:

- (1) Lawn fertilizer applicators shall permit the city to sample any commercial lawn fertilizer applications to be applied within the city at any time.
- (2) All commercial or noncommercial lawn fertilizer applicators shall, upon request of the city, produce a copy of the product material data safety sheet of the lawn fertilizer used for any fertilizer application.
- (3) Commercial and noncommercial lawn fertilizer applicators shall comply with the provisions of the state fertilizer and soil conditioner law as contained in M.S.A. §§ 17.711--17.729 and amendments thereto; and with pesticide control provisions as contained in the M.S.A. ch. 18B.
- (4) All commercial and noncommercial lawn fertilizer applicators who apply fertilizers to turf areas must post or affix signs on the property where the fertilizer is applied. The signs shall comply with the following criteria and contain the following information:
 - a. The signs must project at least 18 inches above the top of the grass line. The signs must be of a material that is rain resistant for at least a 24-hour period and must remain in place up to 24 hours from the time of initial application.
 - b. The following information must be legibly printed on the signs in letters no less than one-half inch high:
 1. The name of the business, entity, or person applying the fertilizer; and
 2. The following language: "This area was fertilized on (date of fertilizer application). For questions please call (phone number of business, entity or person applying the fertilizer)". The signs may include the name of the fertilizer used and indicate phosphorous content of the fertilizer.
 3. The sign must be posted on a lawn or yard between two feet and five feet from the sidewalk or street. For parks, golf courses, athletic fields, playgrounds, or other similar recreational property, the signs must be posted immediately adjacent to areas within the property where fertilizer has been applied and at or near the entrance to the property.

(Ord. No. 2227-02, § 1, 6-3-2002)

***Editor's note--**Section 3 of Ord. No. 2227-02, adopted June 3, 2002, provided that § 34-213 of the Code shall take effect January 1, 2004.