

Generally, I tell folks they have to cut their grass/weeds if it exceeds 10 inches. We allow folks to keep areas of wildflowers that are planted and manicured as such regardless of where their located provided it's within reason (for example, someone can't use their entire front lawn as a wildflower garden). It's handled on a case-by-case basis. But instances of folks exceeding reasonableness have been very uncommon.

#### **674.01 CUTTING OF WEEDS AND PLANT GROWTH REQUIRED.**

(a) All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 10 inches (254mm). All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. "Noxious weeds" shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens. (This section does not apply to forests or to lots exceeding five acres and dedicated for reforestation or general farming).

(b) Any owner or tenant of premises or the exterior of property who violates or fails to comply with Section [674.01](#) is guilty, of a minor misdemeanor. Punishment shall be as provided in Section [698.02](#).

(Ord. 94-44. Passed 7-7-94; Ord. 14-03. Passed 3-11-14.)

#### **📄 674.02 NOTICE TO OWNER TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS; REMOVE LITTER; SERVICE.**

(a) Upon written information that noxious weeds are growing on lands in the village and are about to spread or mature seeds, the Mayor shall cause a written notice to be served upon the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of such land, notifying him that they must be cut and destroyed within five days after the service of such notice.

(b) (1) Upon a finding by the Mayor that litter has been placed on lands in the village and has not been removed, and constitutes a detriment to public health, the Mayor shall cause a written notice be served upon the owner and, if different, upon the lessee, agent or tenant having charge of the littered land, notifying him that litter is on the land and that it must be collected and removed within fifteen days after the service of the notice.

(2) As used in this section and Section [674.04](#), "litter" includes any garbage, waste, peelings of vegetables or fruits, rubbish, ashes, cans, bottles, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, parts of automobiles, wagons, furniture, glass, oil of an unsightly or unsanitary nature, or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature.

(3) If the owner or other person having charge of the land is a nonresident of the village whose address is known, the notice shall be sent to his address by certified mail. If the address of the owner or other person having charge of the land is unknown, it is sufficient to publish the notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

(4) This section does not apply to land being used under a municipal building or construction permit or license, a municipal permit or license, or a conditional zoning permit or variance to operate a junk yard, scrap metal processing facility or similar businesses, or a permit or license issued pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 3734, Sections 4737.05 to 4737.12 or Chapter 6111. (ORC 731.51)

(Ord. 94-44. Passed 7-7-94; Ord. 14-03. Passed 3-11-14.)

**674.03 FEES FOR SERVICE AND RETURN OF NOTICE REGARDING WEEDS OR LITTER.**

The Chief of Police, any police officer or the Clerk of Council may make service and return of the notice provided for in Section [674.02](#) and shall be allowed the same fee as that provided for service and return of summons in civil cases before a magistrate. (ORC 731.52)

(Ord. 94-44. Passed 7-7-94; Ord. 14-03. Passed 3-11-14.)

**674.04 PROCEDURE WHEN OWNER FAILS TO COMPLY WITH NOTICE REGARDING WEEDS OR LITTER.**

If the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of the lands mentioned in Section [674.02](#) fails to comply with the notice required by such section, the Mayor shall cause such noxious weeds to be cut and destroyed or such litter removed and may employ the necessary labor to perform the task. All expenses incurred shall, when approved by the Mayors be paid out of any money in the Treasury of the village not otherwise appropriated.

(Ord. 94-44. Passed 7-7-94; Ord. 14-03. Passed 3-11-14.)

**674.05 WRITTEN RETURN TO COUNTY AUDITOR; LIEN UPON PROPERTY.**

Council shall make a written return to the County Auditor of its action under Sections [674.02](#), [674.03](#) and [674.04](#) with a statement of the charges for its services, the amount paid for labor, the fees of the officers serving the notices and a proper description of the premises. Such amounts, when allowed, shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and be a lien upon such lands from and after the date of the entry and be collected as other taxes and returned to the village with the General Fund. (ORC 731.54)

(Ord. 94-44. Passed 7-7-94; Ord. 14-03. Passed 3-11-14.)