

LAWN LENGTH ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE REGULATION OF
LENGTH OF LAWN, BRUSH, GRASSES AND WEEDS

The Town of Grant does hereby adopt this ordinance in its entirety governing the regulation of the length of lawns, brush, grasses and weeds in residential areas of the Town of Grant.

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest and welfare to regulate lawn, brush, grass and weed length in the Town of Grant, as provided herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Grant, Shawano County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

1-1. Purpose.

This ordinance is adopted due to the unique nature of the problems associated with lawns, grasses, brush, and noxious weeds being allowed to grow to excessive length on residential lots within the Township of Grant, Shawano County.

1-2. Public nuisance declared.

The Town Board finds that lawns, grasses, brush, and noxious weeds, on residential lots or parcels of land, which exceed eight inches in length adversely affect the public health and safety of the public in that they tend to admit pollen and other discomforting bits of plants, constitute a fire hazard, constitute a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass and rodents and other animals take up residence, interfere with the public convenience and adversely affect property values of other land within the township. For that reason, any lawn, grass, brush or weeds, on a lot or parcel of land in a residential area of the Town of Grant, which exceed eight inches in length are hereby declared to be a public nuisance, except for property located in a designated floodplain and/or a designated wetland area or where, in the opinion of the town, is an acceptable natural area.

1-3. Nuisances prohibited.

No person, firm or corporation shall permit any public nuisance as defined in 1-2 above to remain on any premises owned or controlled by him or her on residential lots within the Town of Grant.

1-4. Inspection.

The Weed Commissioner or his/her designee shall inspect or cause to be inspected all premises and places within the community to determine whether any public nuisance as defined in 1-2 above exists.

1-5. Abatement of nuisance.

A. If the Weed Commissioner or his/her designee shall determine with reasonable certainty that any public nuisance as defined in 1-2 above exists, he/she shall immediately cause written notice to be sent by mail to the last known address of the owner of the parcel, that the owner has five days after the letter is sent to have the lot grass, brush, weeds or

lawn cut so as to conform with this section. The letter is assumed deliverable if it is not returned within ten days.

1-6. Penalty.

Any person, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that fails to comply with the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, pay a forfeiture of not less than \$25 nor more than \$300, plus the applicable surcharges, assessments, and costs for each violation.

B. In any case where the owner, occupant or person in charge of the property shall fail to cut his/her lawn, grass, brush, or weeds within the required five days as set forth above, then the town may elect to cut said lawn, grass, brush or weeds as follows:

(1) Written notice shall be personally served, delivered or mailed informing the owner of the parcel of his or her failure to abate the nuisance, the town's intention to abate the same and the cost thereof, no less than 24 hours prior to the town's cutting of the lawn, grass or weeds.

(2) The town shall cut or cause to be cut all grass, brush and weeds from the subject's property and shall charge the fee of \$200 or actual cost, whichever is greater, to the property owner. If said statement is not paid in full within 30 days thereafter, the town clerk shall enter the charge in the tax roll as a special tax against said lot or parcel of land, and the same shall be collected in all respects like other taxes upon real estate, or as provided under Sec. 66.0703(13), Wis. Statutes.

C. If further occurrences within one calendar year arise, the property will continue to be maintained by the town without further notification and the owner will be billed accordingly.

This ordinance shall become effective on publication.

ADOPTED: January 5, 2009

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

 /S/

 /S/

Richard Britzke, Chairman

Kay Blum, Clerk

 /S/

Dale Klitz, Supervisor

 /S/

Bill Bowers, Supervisor