

VILLAGE OF WHITE LAKE
ORDINANCE SEC 16-6
GRASS, LAWN & WEED MAINTENANCE

The Village Board of the Village of White Lake, Langlade County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as the "Grass, Lawn, & Weed Maintenance" of the Village of White Lake.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The Village Board finds that lawns, grasses, and weeds on platted, non-agricultural, non-conservancy land that exceed eight (8) inches in length can emit pollen and other plant parts that can cause discomfort, can constitute a fire hazard, can constitute a safety hazard when debris and/or harmful animals are hidden in grasses or weeds, can interfere with public convenience, can adversely affect the value of other land, and can adversely affect the health and safety of the public. For these reasons, any lawns, grasses, or weeds on platted, non-agricultural, non-conservancy land that exceeds 8 inches in length is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, regardless of whether the land is used for commercial or residential purposes. Property owners may ask for a special approval based on individual circumstances that must be approved by the Village Board.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

(1) The term "destroy" means the complete killing of weeds or the killing of weed plants above the surface of the ground by the use of chemicals, cutting, tillage, cropping system, pasturing stock, or any or all of these in effective combination, at such time and in such manner as will effectively prevent such plants from maturing to the bloom or flower stage.

(2) The term "noxious weeds" includes Canada thistle, leafy spurge, field bindweed and any other such weeds as the Village Board by ordinance declares to be noxious within the Village of White Lake.

SECTION 4. NUISANCE PROHIBITED. No person may permit the type of public nuisance described in Section 2 to exist on any land owned by that person.

SECTION 5. INSPECTION. The Village Board, or a duly authorized designee, is authorized to make one or more inspections of land to determine whether any public nuisance as described in Section 2 exists.

SECTION 6. NOTICE OF PUBLIC NUISANCE.

(a) If the Village Board determines that a public nuisance as described in Section 2 exists, he or she shall cause a written notice to be delivered to any person in violation as specified in Section 4. The Village Board has the option to deliver the notice by regular mail or by personal service. The notice is effective upon mailing or personal service. The notice shall state that:

(i) It has been determined that a public nuisance as described in Section 2 exists on the specific property.

- (ii) The person or persons who own the land must abate the public nuisance within 10 days of the date the notice is mailed or personally served.
 - (iii) In the event the person or persons who own the land do not abate the public nuisance, the Village shall issue a citation and/or citations as outlined in *Section 7* below.
 - (iv) In the event the person or persons who own the land do not abate the public nuisance, the Village may instead or furthermore cause the public nuisance to be abated, and the cost of such abatement shall be specially charged against the land as allowed by law.
- (b) A copy of this ordinance shall be attached to the notice.

SECTION 7. WEED AND GRASS REMOVAL BY VILLAGE.

- (a) If a person who owns, occupies or controls lands in the Village of White Lake fails to destroy noxious weeds or permits other weeds or grasses to grow to a height in excess of 8 inches, the Village, through its designated officer, shall send a 10-day written notice to the person who owns, occupies or controls such lands requiring such noxious weeds to be destroyed and other weeds and grasses to be cut immediately.
- (b) If the person who owns, occupies or controls the lands fails to comply with the notice, the Village may arrange for the destruction of the noxious weeds and the cutting of other weeds and grasses, either by a commercial company or Village employees. The Village may collect this expense by a special assessment against the land. In addition, the person who owns, occupies or controls the lands is subject to a forfeiture for violation of this provision.

SECTION 8. FORFEITURE. In the event a violation of this section is not corrected within the 10-day correction period, each person found guilty of such a violation shall forfeit \$200.00 (\$150 grass cutting & \$50 administrative fees) for each violation, plus costs, fees, penalties, assessments, surcharges and other charges that are or can be imposed by state law. An invoice will be sent after each violation/s and shall be paid within 30 days the cost will be charged on the tax bill. Each day a violation occurs or exists after the effective date of the notice shall be considered a separate violation.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication, pursuant to state law.

Adopted this 12th day of August, 2025.

VILLAGE OF WHITE LAKE

By: 
Thomas Edelman, Village President

ATTESTED: 
Carol Blawat, Clerk-Treasurer