

Ask the Chief

Dear Chief: Can you explain the City Ordinance as it pertains to a property owner's responsibility concerning weeds, vegetation, trash, and rubbish?

Dear Concerned Citizen: The City of Alamosa's annual weed enforcement is underway. Article III, "Weeds, Vegetation, Trash and Rubbish" of the City's Code of Ordinances requires that "every owner, every tenant and every person in possession of any real property in the City" provides for and compels "the removal of weeds, noxious vegetation, trash, and rubbish of all kinds from such property and along any street and sidewalk adjoining the same and to the middle of each public right-of-way."

One question we get asked a lot is why do I have to cut the weeds in the alley? By ordinance, the alleyway is considered "public right-of-way" and so adjoining properties to these alleyways are responsible for weed removal to the middle of said right-of-way.

So, what weeds are considered illegal? Any weeds, waste vegetation, or non-ornamental vegetation that has bloomed or reached a height or diameter of eight (8) inches shall be presumed to be noxious (illegal) for the purpose of this ordinance.

What are the most common noxious weeds? There are many weeds on the noxious weed list, but those most frequently seen in Alamosa are Kocho, White Top (has a white flower with a peppery scent), Flix Weed (this has a yellow flower and a fern looking leaf), and Tamarack (also known as Pink Cloud) that looks like a pink flowering large bush. If you are unsure if something is a weed, please contact us and we will gladly assist you with the determination.

What should I do if I receive notice of a violation from the City? When a community member has received a notice of violation, property owners and tenants are given at least seven (7) days to remedy the violation. Property not remedied within the required time limit will result in a summons for violation of City ordinance and required to appear in court. Our preference is to not be forced to make notice of violations and/or write summons for non-compliance so we are asking community members to look at your property and remedy violations before they become an issue. The ordinance does have purpose as it helps us all maintain a clean place to live, reduces fire danger and health hazards, and keeps your neighbors happy.

If you have any questions regarding this ordinance please contact 580-5313 or 589-5807.

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police