

Our mission statement...

The Property Maintenance Team strives to work cooperatively with the citizens of the Town through communication, education and volunteer assistance to gain willful compliance of the ordinances it enforces to promote a healthier and safer environment for everyone.
“Service through communication and care”



This pamphlet describes the laws that prohibit the overgrowth of grass and weeds. Preventing unsightly overgrowth is important to people that work and live in Colonial Beach as well as prospective businesses and residents that are seeking a new home or office location.

What are WEEDS?

Section 15-2 of the Colonial Beach Code defines weeds as any grass, weeds, bushes, poison ivy, poison oak or any other vegetable growth other than trees, ornamental shrubbery, flowers and garden vegetables.



What is the HEIGHT LIMIT for grass/weeds and what properties are required to comply with the ordinance?

The Town Code restricts weed growth to 12 inches in height on the following properties:

- Any vacant developed or undeveloped property that is located within the boundaries of a platted subdivision.
- Any property zoned for residential, business, commercial, or industrial use must cut weeds/grass that is within 250 feet of property developed for residential use.



What action does the Town take in order to gain compliance from violators of the ordinance?



The Property Maintenance Inspector will respond to a reported violation within 3 days of receiving the report. Owners are normally provided 7 calendar days to cut the grass/weeds.

The inspectors notifies the owner by mail and/or leaving notices at the property. Willful compliance is a goal in our program. However, if willful compliance is not the case, failure to cut the weeds by the deadline may result in the Town having the weeds cut by our contractor and billing all charges to the property owner. Any unpaid bill will be assessed to the property and collected as a lien. The Town has a similar authority to remove trash and debris and to exterminate rats.

Please note that only one (1) notice will be sent per growing season. If the grass/weeds exceed 12-inches more than once in a season, the Town will call the Contractor to cut the grass/weeds to be in compliance with the Town Code.

Did you know that...

- **Overgrowth vegetation** is prohibited from being cut when it is required to remain natural to serve as a buffer or is located in a protected wetland. Questions about buffers can be answered by calling:

**Department of Planning
224-7506**



Help us help you...

Properties with tall grass and weeds frequently have violations of other ordinance requirements. If you call to report a weed/grass violation, advising our staff of the following will help the inspector prepare to address all concerns on the property.

- Is the property **vacant** or **occupied**?
- Are there any **inoperable** or **unlicensed vehicles or trailers** on the property?
- Does the property have any **trash, garbage or litter** that is not stored in a covered, watertight container?



- Have you seen any **evidence of rats** on the property?



HOW DO I REPORT A VIOLATION?

Violations of the ordinance should be reported to the Property Maintenance Program, which is a division of the Department of Planning & Community Development. We like to inform the complainant of the status of their concern, and may need to contact the complainant for further information. Therefore, **in order to investigate your complaint, and provide you an update or status your name and telephone number is required** when you register a complaint. If you wish not to receive such an update this information is not required. This information is **confidential** and *will not be released from our office.*

Please call the Property Maintenance **HOTLINE** (available for your convenience 24 hours per day) with your concerns. The number is:

224-7506



Proud of our progress;
Excited about our future.

**Town of Colonial Beach
Department of Planning, Community Development &
Property Maintenance
315 Douglas Avenue
Colonial Beach, VA 22443**

The Town of Colonial Beach, Virginia



The GRASS & WEED Ordinance

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