

TOWNSHIP OF ROCKLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 93-6

BRUSH, GRASS AND WEEDS ORDINANCE

"IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKLAND DEFINING UNLAWFUL GROWTHS AND DECLARING SUCH GROWTHS AS A NUISANCE; IDENTIFYING EXEMPTIONS; REGULATING CUTTING AND REMOVAL BY OWNER OR OCCUPANT; OUTLINING THE DUTIES OF OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS; PROVIDING NOTICE TO COMPLY; PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE."

BE IT ORDAINED by the Supervisors of the Township of Rockland, Berks County, Pennsylvania, and IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the authority of the same, that:

1.1 UNLAWFUL GROWTHS; DECLARATION AS NUISANCE; EXEMPTION.

A. No person, firm or corporation, or any agent, servant, representative or employee of any such person, firm or corporation owning or occupying any property within the Township of Rockland shall permit:

(1) Any grass, weeds or any other vegetation whatsoever, not edible or planted for some useful or ornamental purpose, to grow or remain upon such premises so as to:

- (a) Exceed a height of twelve (12) inches. X
- (b) Throw off any unpleasant or noxious odor.
- (c) Conceal any filthy deposit.
- (d) Create or produce pollen.

(2) Poison ivy, ragweed or other poisonous plants, or plants detrimental to health, to growth or remain upon such premises in such manner that they shall extend or border upon, or overhang any street, sidewalk, or other public place.

B. Any grass, weeds or other vegetation growing upon any premises in the Township in violation of any of the provisions of Subsection A above is hereby declared to be a nuisance and detrimental to the health, safety, cleanliness and comfort of the inhabitants of the Township.

C. Excluded from application to this provision are wooded areas and open fields or acreage to within one hundred (100) feet of any building or structure.

1.2 CUTTING AND REMOVAL REQUIRED BY OWNER OR OCCUPANT.

A. The owner of any premises, as to vacant premises or premises occupied by the owner, or the occupant thereof, in the case of premises occupied by other than the owner thereof, shall trim, cut or remove all grass, weeds or other vegetation growing or remaining upon such premises as often as may be necessary to bring such premises into compliance with the provisions of Section 1.1; provided, however, that (cutting, trimming, or removing such weeds, grass or other vegetation) at least twice a month in the months of May, June, July, August, and September) and the removal of the weeds, grass and other vegetation so cut shall be deemed evidence that no violation of this Section shall have been created.

1.3 DUTIES OF OWNER OR OCCUPANT.

The owner of any vacant premises or premises occupied by the owner and the occupant thereof, in the case of premises occupied by other than the owner thereof, shall remove, trim or cut all grass, weeds or other vegetation growing or remaining upon such premises in violation of any of the provisions of Section 1.1 of this Ordinance.

1.4 NOTICE TO COMPLY; NONCOMPLIANCE.

The Supervisors of Rockland Township, or any officer of the Township designated thereby for the purpose, is hereby authorized to give notice, by personal service or by United States mail, to the owner or occupant, as the case may be, of any premises whereof grass, weeds or other vegetation is growing or remaining in violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter, directing and requiring such owner or occupant to remove, trim or cut such grass, weeds or other vegetation so as to conform to the requirements of this Ordinance within five (5) days after the issuance of such notice. In case any person shall neglect, fail or refuse to comply with such notice within the period of time stated therein, the Township may cause such grass, weeds or other vegetation to be removed, trimmed or cut, and the cost thereof, with an additional charge of ten percent (10%), shall be collected by the Township from such person in default, in the manner provided by law.

1.5 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

Any person who shall violate any provisions of this Chapter shall, upon conviction thereof for each violation, be subject to a fine of up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), plus costs of prosecution. In default of payment of said fines and costs, such person shall be sentenced to the County jail for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days. Each day shall be a separate offense.

1.6 EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after final enactment or adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or revoked.

PASSED AND ENACTED as an Ordinance of the Township of Rockland at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisor^s held the 10th day of August, 1993.