

VILLAGE OF GALATIA, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 04272026

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NUISANCE WEEDS, TALL GRASS, AND VEGETATION

WHEREAS, the Village of Galatia is authorized under the Illinois Municipal Code, including but not limited to 65 ILCS 5/11-60-2, 65 ILCS 5/11-20-5, 65 ILCS 5/11-20-6, and 65 ILCS 5/11-20-7, to define, prevent, and abate nuisances and to promote public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, excessive growth of weeds, grass, and noxious vegetation constitutes a nuisance by creating health hazards, harboring vermin, and diminishing property values; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are expressly authorized to require the cutting of weeds and to recover the costs of abatement, including by lien against the property ;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Galatia, Saline County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

- **Weeds/Tall Grass:** Any vegetation exceeding **eight (8) inches in height**, including grasses, weeds, or rank vegetation not intentionally cultivated.
- **Noxious Vegetation:** Includes, but is not limited to, poison ivy, poison oak, ragweed, thistle, and similar harmful plants.
- **Owner:** Any person, firm, corporation, or entity holding title or control of property.
- **Premises:** Any lot, parcel, or tract of land within the Village limits.

SECTION 2: NUISANCE DECLARED

The following conditions are hereby declared to be a **public nuisance**:

1. Grass or weeds exceeding eight (8) inches in height.
2. The presence of noxious or uncontrolled vegetation.
3. Any vegetation that:

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- Harbors insects, rodents, or vermin
 - Creates a fire hazard
 - Obstructs sidewalks, streets, or visibility
 - Negatively impacts neighboring properties
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SECTION 3: DUTY OF PROPERTY OWNERS

- A. Every owner shall maintain their property free of nuisance vegetation.
 - B. This obligation applies to all developed and undeveloped lots within Village limits.
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SECTION 4: NOTICE OF VIOLATION

- A. Upon determination of a violation, the Village shall issue written notice to the property owner.
 - B. Notice shall be served by:
 - Personal service; or
 - Certified mail; or
 - Posting on the property if owner cannot be located
 - C. The notice shall provide **five (5) days** to correct the violation.
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SECTION 5: ABATEMENT BY VILLAGE

If the owner fails to comply within the required time:

1. The Village may enter the property and cut or remove the nuisance vegetation.
 2. All costs incurred shall be:
 - Billed to the property owner; and
 - If unpaid, recorded as a **lien against the property** pursuant to Illinois law (65 ILCS 5/11-20-6 and 11-20-7) .
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SECTION 6: FINES AND PENALTIES

A. Any person found in violation shall be subject to a fine of:

- Not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 per day per violation

B. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 7: ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

This Ordinance shall be enforced by:

- The Village Code Enforcement Officer
- The Village Superintendent
- Any authorized municipal official

SECTION 8: APPEALS

Any person aggrieved by enforcement action may appeal to the Village Board within **10 days** of notice.

SECTION 9: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions.

SECTION 10: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED THIS 27 DAY OF April, 2026

APPROVED:

[Signature] [Signature] Derrick A. Fletcher

Village President

[Signature], Village Clerk

