

There were some questions last year about Canon City's ordinances regarding weeds on residential property. The following was in Saturdays paper - the Civil Exchange section:

Q

Summertime is coming, and with it, I expect to see the return of tall weeds around town, making the areas look pretty shabby. What is the ordinance about weeds and how is it enforced?

A

You're right. Especially during times of high precipitation, some residential properties do look pretty rough from waist-high weeds.

There are actually two ordinances that might apply to this situation, but 8.32 is probably the most pertinent. It says if a landowner allows weeds (plants that are growing in an unintended place) to grow more than 8 inches tall, then there can be an ordinance violation. With proper notification, the owner is responsible to maintain the property within seven days. If not maintained within seven days, then every five days without maintenance can be deemed a separate violation. Fines can be as high as \$1,000 with a maximum of 90 days in jail. If the city contracts for weed maintenance, the owner will be charged cost plus 15 percent. If not paid, a lien can be placed on the property.

Most situations are handled informally but there are a substantial number of cases that are in various stages of prosecution. You can report weed problems at 269-9011.