

DAVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT WEED ABATEMENT CRITERIA



The goal of the Fire Department weed abatement program is to reduce the number and size of vegetation fires in areas protected by the Davis Fire Department. Year-round compliance shall be maintained as described below.

Weed Abatement Rules:

1. Grasses and related woody materials pose a greater fire hazard when standing than when cut and allowed to lie flat.
2. Dry vegetation is subject to abatement; decorative, green vegetation need not be abated if it will remain green during the summer months.
3. Abatement may be required on vacant lots, or on lots occupied by a building.
4. It is not the intent of the program to remove all vegetation from lots. Occasionally, grass fires will occur on lots subject to weed reduction.
5. Weed abatement is not intended to be a blight mitigation or City beautification program.

Specific Requirements:

1. Vegetation must be sufficiently dense to support a fire for abatement to be required; an average vegetation density of 25% is prima facie evidence of this capability.
2. Vegetation shorter than 6 inches (15 cm) need not be abated.
3. At least 200 square feet of vegetation taller than 6 inches (15 cm) must be present on a parcel to necessitate abatement.
4. Vegetation subject to abatement shall be reduced in one of the following ways:
 - Cutting, flailing or chopping, with the resulting material remaining no higher than 6 inches above the soil.
 - Disking, with at least 50% of the material turned under the soil *
 - Use of livestock. If you choose this method and have questions, please call John McNerney, the City of Davis' Wildlife Resource Specialist, at 757-5680.
5. Weeds shall be cut or turned under within 10 feet of roads/driveways, buildings, fences, or other combustible improvements.
6. Maintain the lower 1/3 of trees and shrubs by removing all leafy foliage, twigs and branches up to a maximum of 6 feet from the ground (i.e., any tree 18 feet or taller requires only 6 feet of clearance).
7. Remove all dead trees, limbs and shrubs.
8. Once brush clearance has been conducted, remove and safely dispose of all cut vegetation. This includes, but is not limited, to grasses, shrubs, branches, logs, leaves and any other combustible materials. Cut vegetation shall not be piled and left on site.
9. Cut vegetation may be machine processed (chipped) and spread as ground cover (mulch) so it does not exceed a depth of 6 inches.

10. Weeds on unimproved parcels 1 acre or smaller (44,000 square feet) shall be abated on the entire lot.
11. Weeds on unimproved, non-agricultural parcels larger than 1 acre (44,000 square feet) shall be cut or turned under in a perimeter configuration at least 50 feet from all property lines.
12. Where open agricultural land abuts buildings, combustible fences, or other combustible improvements, vegetation shall be cut or turned under in a border at least 50 feet wide adjacent to the improvements.
13. Once a lot is abated of weeds/vegetation according to the above criteria, any regrowth of weeds/vegetation on the lot throughout the year must also be abated to the same criteria.

* **As of February 9, 2001, all disking, tilling and grading of property within the City is prohibited without prior approval by the City.** For a copy of the Ordinance, contact the City Clerk at (530) 757-5648, the Community Development and Sustainability Department at (530) 757-5610 or visit the City's website at www.cityofdavis.org/cdd/