



# NOXIOUS WEEDS AND UNCONTROLLED PLANT GROWTH REGULATIONS

REVISED 09/28/2012



## WHAT IS A NOXIOUS WEED?

Noxious Weed growth in Thomas Township is defined as Canadian thistle, dodders, mustards, wild carrot, bindweed, perennial sowthistle, hoary alyssum, ragweed, poison ivy, poison sumac as well as any other plant determined as a nuisance by the Thomas Township Board.



## UNCONTROLLED PLANT GROWTH

Means any non-woody vegetation exceeding a height of twelve (12) inches.

## REGULATIONS

- It is the **owner/occupants** responsibility to destroy noxious weeds before they reach the seed bearing stage or a height of ten (10) inches.
- The **owner/occupant** shall keep uncontrolled plant growth to a height of no more than ten (10) inches.
- **All** noxious weeds and uncontrolled plant growth in violation of the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be a public nuisance.



## NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Thomas Township will publish in the newspaper during the month of March weeds/plant growth in violation of this ordinance which are not cut/destroyed by May 1st of that year, may be cut/destroyed by Thomas Township and the owner of the property be charged with the expenses incurred.

## COST OF CUTTING

If the owner/occupant/agent fails to comply after notification, the Township or its designee, may enter the property with or without mechanical equipment and destroy/cut the weeds/plant growth. All expenses incurred shall be paid by the owner of the land. This may be enforced through liens that are subject to penalties and interest in the same manner as the enforcement of real property tax liens. This means that unpaid cost owed to the township will be placed on the property tax bill. In addition, Thomas Township may sue the owner for collection of such expenses.



## VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT

Any person who refuses to comply with the Ordinance is responsible. Whether it be occupant, owner, licensee, agent, contractor or otherwise, are liable as a principal. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense. Any violation could be a basis for such judgment, writ or order necessary to compel compliance and/or prohibit continued violation. A violation of this Ordinance is a Municipal Civil Infraction (as defined by Michigan statute) and shall be punishable by a fine as follows:

**1st Violation.....\$50.00\***

**2nd Violation.....\$125.00\***

**3rd Violation.....\$250.00\***

**4th or subsequent Violation will be**

**\$500.00\***

**\*within a 3-year period; determined on the basis of the dates of violation(s).**

## AGRICULTURAL USE EXCEPTION

Parcels zoned Agricultural or Environmental shall not be required to follow provisions found within this ordinance if the parcel is farmed or currently used for a recognized agricultural purpose. Residential homes in Agricultural Zone shall comply fully.

If you have questions, please contact the Thomas Township Code Enforcement Officer at (989) 781-0150 or visit [www.thomastwp.org](http://www.thomastwp.org)