

ORDINANCE NO. 96-4 AMENDMENT #1
YARD TRIMMINGS DISPOSAL REGULATIONS

To amend the Ordinance No. 96-4 of Dahlonega, Georgia so as to prohibit the inclusion of yard trimmings in municipal solid waste; to prohibit disposal of yard trimmings in certain landfills located within the City of Dahlonega; to establish a manner of sorting, storing, composting and collecting yard trimmings; to prohibit the growth of weeds, grass, deleterious unhealthful growths; to provide definitions; to provide penalties; and for other purposes.

SECTION ONE - DEFINITIONS

- (a) Commercial Solid Waste - All types of solid waste generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses and other non-manufacturing activities, excluding residential and industrial wastes.
- (b) Composting - The controlled biological decomposition of organic matter into a stable, odor free humus.
- (c) Leachate Collection System - A system at a landfill for collection of the leachate which may percolate through the waste and into the soils surrounding the landfill.
- (d) Municipal Solid Waste - Any solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash and sanitary waste in septic tanks and includes solid waste from single family and multifamily residences, hotels, motels, bunkhouses, campground, picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. The term includes yard trimmings and commercial solid waste; but does not include solid waste from mining, agricultural or silvacultural operations or industrial processes or operations.
- (e) Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Facility - Any facility or location where the final deposition of any amount of municipal solid waste occurs, whether or not mixed with commercial or industrial solid waste, including but not limited to municipal solid waste landfills.
- (f) Municipal Solid Waste Landfill - A disposal facility where any amount of municipal solid waste, whether or not mixed with commercial waste, industrial waste, non-hazardous sludges or small quantity generator hazardous waste, is disposed of by means of placing an approved cover thereon.
- (g) Yard Trimmings - Leaves, brush, grass clippings, shrub and tree pruning, discarded Christmas trees, nursery and greenhouse vegetative residuals, and vegetative matter resulting from landscaping development and maintenance, other than mining, agricultural and silvacultural operations.
- (h) Weeds, Untrimmed Grass, Deleterious Unhealthful Growths - Weeds shall be deemed to mean jimson, burdock, ragweed, thistle cocklebur, dandelion or other unsightly growths of a like kind. Untrimmed grass or deleterious unhealthful growths exceeding the height of twelve (12) inches are hereby declared to be unlawful and injurious to the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Dahlonega.

**SECTION TWO - PLACEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF YARD TRIMMINGS,
WEEDS, UNTRIMMED GRASS, DELETERIOUS GROWTHS: PROHIBITED**

- (a) It shall be unlawful to place or mix yard trimmings with municipal solid waste within the City of Dahlonega.
- (b) Yard trimmings shall not be disposed at any solid waste disposal facility having a liner and leachate collection system or requiring vertical expansion located within the City of Dahlonega.
- (c) No owner or tenant of any lot, parcel or area of land within the city limits of Dahlonega shall permit on such lot, parcel or area of land, or upon any sidewalk abutting the same, any weeds, untrimmed grass, deleterious or unhealthful growths or other debris of any kind which may impair the visibility of persons using the public streets or which may constitute an impediment on or overhanging the sidewalks along any of the streets of the City of Dahlonega.

**SECTION THREE - SORTING, STORING, COMPOSTING, AND COLLECTING
YARD TRIMMINGS.**

Yard trimmings shall be sorted and stored in the following manner:

1. Brush and tree limbs will be collected at the curbside by the city and chipped into mulch.
2. Grass clippings and other material too small for chipping must be composted by the property owner or tenant thereof and properly maintained.
3. Leaves will be collected at the curbside or street side by the city and disposed of by the city.

SECTION FOUR - PENALTIES

A violation of this Ordinance is an infraction, and shall be treated as a misdemeanor. The minimum fine for the FIRST OFFENSE shall be no less than \$250.00 and no more than \$500.00 and/or jail time not to exceed 30 days for the SECOND OFFENSE .

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

It is so ordained this 24th day of February 2003.

Bill Scott, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest: Janet Jarrard, City Clerk