

# CITY OF PERRYSBURG

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**THOMAS G. MACKIN** MAYOR OF PERRYSBURG

201 W. Indiana Avenue | Perrysburg, OH 43551 | Office 419 872 8010 | [www.ci.perrysburg.oh.us](http://www.ci.perrysburg.oh.us)

July 14, 2022

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Attn: Dorothy Pelanda, Director of Agriculture  
8995 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43608

Dear Director Pelanda:

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Thomas Mackin and I am the Mayor for the City of Perrysburg. Our community has been dealing with an unusual problem this summer involving Foxtail Barley. Because of the wet spring, many of our farmers were unable to spray for weeds and they were forced to wait and put their crops in late. Following the wet spring, northwest Ohio had an extremely dry June, and unfortunately, that has led to a problem of Foxtail Barley growing in the fields where crops should have grown.

According to R.C. §907.10 (B) (2), the Director of Agriculture shall “establish prohibited and restricted noxious-weed lists and provide for additions to them and deletions from them.” Foxtail Barley is not currently defined as a noxious or an invasive weed in either the ODNR or the ORC. On behalf of the residents of the City of Perrysburg, I ask that the status of Foxtail Barley be re-evaluated.

I make this request because residents, and their pets, have experienced detrimental effects from mature Foxtail Barley seeds. Specifically, residents have reported that their dogs have gotten ill after eating the seed pods that have covered neighboring properties like snow. Under R.C. §901.51, Perrysburg cannot address this issue in active farm fields without the “privilege to do so”. If, however, Foxtail Barley was classified as a noxious or invasive weed, the City could take steps to protect neighboring properties and their pets.

This issue also will not “blow over” because seeds have now blown throughout the community. I anticipate that this problem will return, potentially in more areas of Perrysburg next year. Therefore, given the current and potential future problem this issue could cause, I believe a review of how Foxtail Barley is categorized is warranted.

I look forward to your response. Please feel free to contact me if you have a question or need additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas G. Mackin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and "M".

Thomas G. Mackin  
Mayor

Encl.: Photos