

From: [Hollie Arnell](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#); [Ann Bates](#)
Subject: opposed Noxious Weed Rules 02.06.22
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 8:53:59 AM

Hello,

My name is Hollie Arnell and I own a small landscape company here in Boise.

I am sending this email to add to the list that I oppose having Taxus Yews on the NWL.

Please add my company name on the list.

Thank you

Hollie Arnell

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Hollie Arnell

Roots Landscape Design and Consulting LLC.

Boise,Id 83704

(208)573-4796



From: [Rod Burke](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: Taxus
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 9:22:57 AM

I am completely opposed to placing Taxus on the Noxious weed list.

Rod Burke
Garden Resource and Project Director
Idaho Botanical Garden

From: [Kendall Hopkins](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Cc: ["Ann"](#)
Subject: Yew on noxious list???
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 11:42:56 AM

To those concerned:

Listing Yews as a noxious weed would a mistake. The event in which large game animals died from eating Yew plants is unfortunate and sad.

Who will be the "Yew enforcement" officer? Where will the officer be allowed to enter? What will the fine be for having a Yew in the yard?

I am a big game enthusiast, farmer, tree grower, livestock owner, dog lover, cat lover, and general defender of animals rights to exist. Please consider the ignorance factor to putting Yews on the noxious list.

The fact is, people generally deeply care about animals and enjoy plants so let the Nursery industry and Ag department inform people about Yews. If people are informed of the danger of these plants then they will self-regulate and place plants as needed. For this reason, it is an easy plant to "control" without specific regulation or listing.

Yews are not invasive. They are limited to where they are planted and who plants them. Information is easily placed on the Tag in the nursery or garden center and toxic info is already included on many of the Yew tags.

Put out some fliers and have the Nursery Association inform people. Use some sensible non-action and allow people to make the choice after being informed. You will see Idahoans take care planting them as needed.

Thanks,
Kendall Hopkins
Hopkins Evergreens

From: [Kermit Morris](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: OPPOSED Noxious Weed Rules 02.06.22
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 2:49:56 PM

I, Kermit Morris, am opposed to having Taxus yews placed on the Noxious Weed List of Idaho.

Just the fact that yews are toxic to wildlife is not sufficient reason to place them on the noxious weed list. If it were, the following list of plants that are known to be toxic (ranging from mildly to fatally) to cats, dogs, and other animals should be placed there as well:

Cold-Hardy, Perennial Flowers

1. Foxglove
2. Mums
3. Lenten rose
4. Lily-of-the-valley
5. Hosta
6. Bleeding hearts
7. Iris
8. Monkshood
9. Yarrow

Vines

1. English ivy
2. Morning glory
3. Wisteria
4. Clematis
5. Bittersweet
6. Boston ivy

Annuals

1. Lantana
2. Begonias

Shrubs

1. Rose of Sharon
2. Andromeda (Pieris japonica)
3. Mountain laurel
4. Hydrangeas
5. Burning bush
6. Azaleas and rhododendrons
7. Boxwood
8. Privet
9. Daphne

10. Yew

Trees

1. Oleander
2. American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
3. Yellow bird of paradise (*Caesalpinia gilliesii*)
4. Golden chain (*Laburnum × watereri*)
5. Oak trees (leaves and acorns poisonous to dogs)

Bulb Plants

1. Hyacinths
2. Tulips
3. Lilies
4. Alliums

Clearly placing any or all of these plants on the noxious weed list just because of their toxicity is not the right answer. Also consider that yews are COMPLETELY non-invasive and simple to eradicate. The correct answer in this case is public education.

Sincerely,

Kermit Morris

State Chairman, Idaho
Landscape Industry Certified Technician Program

Pipeco - Boise
8550 Chinden Blvd
Boise, ID 83714
208.336.5777 office
208.336.5778 fax

From: [mike mount](#)
To: [_Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: yews
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 3:03:16 PM

Yews are not a noxious weed. If anything is a hazard it is deer which were introduced into Idaho by the state game and fish. They cause millions of dollars of damage to landscapes and vehicles each year. If anything should occur we should thin the numbers of deer by encouraging them to eat yews.. -----Mike Mount (nurseyman)

po box 2167
Orofino, Id.
208-476-3022

From: [Rob Tracy:Kinji:Kim](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: taxus on Noxious Weed List of Idaho
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 3:08:01 PM

Kim Ray is opposed to having Taxus yews on the Noxious Weed List of Idaho.

The expense and damage such a classification would cause is unnecessary. An education program could teach purchasers/homeowners of the risks of the plant (and actually many other plants) on their properties. A precautionary tag for this particular plant could be attached that would alert a purchaser of the risk to wildlife. Professionals would understand the associated issues with the plant.

Please consider other less extreme and damaging solutions to this current issue.

Sincerely,

Kim G. Ray, President
Terravita Landscape & Gardening, Inc.

From: [Nancy/John Werdel](#)
To: [_Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: listing Taxus Yew as noxious plant
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 3:21:26 PM

I am in favor of listing the Taxus Yew as a noxious plant that should not continue to be sold commercially. There are hundreds of alternative plants that are not deadly to wildlife. We should be doing all that we can to protect these animals. This would, admittedly, be a small step, but combined with appropriate education on the use of this plant, would head us in the right direction.

Thank you.

Nancy Werdel
820 Parkhill Dr
Boise, ID 83702

From: [CenturyLink](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: Adding Yews to the Noxious Weeds List?
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 4:25:16 PM

To whom it may concern.

As a landscape designer, I often do designs with wildlife in mind. While the Yew is not on my go-to list, I still do not feel it should be added to the Noxious Weeds List. Last winter was an exceptional winter with cold temps and heavy snows. These conditions drove wildlife down into urban areas giving them access to shrubs that they would normally only occasionally browse just a little bit. It's like most things. A little once in a while won't kill you, but a lot over a short period of time **will** kill you. If we outlaw Yews, wildlife will find the next toxic plant to eat, and so on. Where do you draw the line.

I have great compassion for wildlife and feel we should be diligent and responsible in the urban/wild land interface and along the river corridor to prevent this conflict. However, this winter wildlife came further into the urban areas than usual exposing themselves to hazards beyond just their food source. Would it be possible to just limit Yew plantings in the interface areas along the foothills and river corridor. I do not feel this situation warrants a blanket response to an isolated situation.

I question how this would even be regulated? Noxious weeds are rampant all over our community (in town I see regularly rush skeleton weed, morningglory, puncturevine, canadian thistle, etc and the foothills are another story), and there isn't enough funds or manpower available to deal with what is already an issue and on the list. Yews would be much easier to eradicate, but I feel we would be throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Sincerely,

Kathy Robert, Managing Member
Dragonfly Landscape Design, LLC
11133 W Hollandale Dr
Boise, ID 83709
208-724-0113
ISA Certified Arborist PN-7012A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

From: [Busch, Mary \(mbusch@uidaho.edu\)](mailto:Busch.Mary@uidaho.edu)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: opposed Noxious Weed Rules 02.06.22
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 4:27:37 PM

I, Mary Busch am opposed to having Taxus yews on the Noxious Weed List of Idaho.

Mary E Busch

From: [Richard Troyer \(refugerichard@gmail.com\)](mailto:refugerichard@gmail.com)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Cc: angelarossman@yahoo.com
Subject: Yew plant
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 6:41:31 PM

As a lifelong hunter and resident of Idaho for more than 50 years, I value the interaction with wildlife as a precious resource in our state. I strongly support a ban on the sale and planting of the non-native yew plant which has been so toxic to elk, deer, moose, and other wild animals. Please list the yew plant as a noxious weed.

Sent from Richard Troyer
11255 Coyote Cove
Nampo ID 83686

From: [Amy Rustad](#)
To: [_Rulesinfo](#)
Cc: angelarossmann@yahoo.com
Subject: Please Ban the Sale of Yew Plants
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 9:11:15 PM

Dear Idaho State Department of Agriculture,

Every winter we have a herd of up to 40 elk feeding in our foothills yard. Really, of course, we are in their yard. One of the most wonderful things about living in Boise and in Idaho is the daily interaction with wildlife and with nature. It is something that I feel obligated to protect.

To that end, I encourage you to ban the sale of yew plants in Idaho. I'm sure that you are aware of the large loss of wildlife last winter from elk, antelope and other animals from ingesting yew plants in the Boise area and beyond. Yew plants meet the definition of noxious weed and also are poisonous to children and domestic animals. There are many alternative plants that can safely take their place. Please ban their sale in Idaho.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Rustad

121 N. Al Fresco Place
Boise, ID 83712

208-870-6005

From: [Melinda Marks](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Cc: [Angela Rossmann](#); [troyerbrett](#)
Subject: Negotiated Rule Making for ban of yew plant
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 9:31:53 PM

We live in the foothills of Boise and unfortunately were witness to the elk deaths this winter in our neighborhood due to the ingestion of toxic yew plants. We came to learn about the other deaths of animals in Idaho over the past several years, even in years where the winter was not so harsh. There is an increasing amount of wildlife interface with urban development throughout Idaho as urban development extends. As outdoorsmen we recognize the value of wildlife to the state both in quality of life and economic impact in hunting, and want to minimize needless tragic deaths. We were shocked and dismayed to discover a number of plants in our neighborhood and in many areas where wildlife interact around us. We have gone door to door helping our neighbors remove these plants. In the process of educating our neighbors and friends we have realized that there is a large lack of awareness of the poisonous nature of this plant to animals and humans. There have been 4 reports from the Idaho Poison Control Center of children ingesting this plant in several counties in Idaho since 2012. We believe it is unacceptable to continue selling this plant in our state when there are many acceptable landscaping alternatives, and no businesses growing this plant in Idaho. It is non-native and meets ISDA's own definition of a noxious weed as defined on your website "...any plant having the potential to cause injury to public health, crops, livestock, land or other property..."

We ask that you list this plant as a noxious weed and ban the sale of this plant in Idaho and encourage removal of this plant in affected areas.

Melinda Marks
Brett Troyer
251 N Al Fresco Pl
Boise ID 83712
208-859-2769

From: [sandmann](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: Yews
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 9:48:41 PM

The idea of putting yews on the noxious plant list does not make sense to me. It makes more sense to discover why the choice of yews as a winter food source has occurred. My observation is this has become a recent issue, are we building homes in winter ranges? Are predators driving animals into the shelter of human developments? Do some thoughtful studies before you remove a plant from our use.

Mike Sandmann
Evergreen Nursery & Landscaping Inc.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless Tablet

From: [Eileen Thuesen](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: Ornamental yew plants - IDAPA 02.06.22
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 4:43:37 PM

To: Deputy Director Brian Oakey
Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture

Re: IDAPA 02.06.22 – Ornamental yew plants

Dear Mr. Oakey,

This is to request that non-native (Japanese and European) ornamental yews be added to Idaho's list of noxious weeds in the "control" category. The extreme level of toxicity in these plants makes even very small amounts of them deadly not only to wildlife and pets, but also to people – 4 children in Idaho have been poisoned since 2013. At a minimum, the importation and selling of these plants should be banned. However, because so many of them have already been planted in Idahoans' yards and public open spaces and have caused poisonings and many wildlife deaths, existing plants should also be removed.

According to the state's existing statute #22-2402(17), a noxious weed "...means any plant having the potential to cause injury to public health, crops, livestock, land or other property; and which is designated as noxious by the director." The non-native ornamental yews certainly fall under this definition.

Garden nurseries have done a poor or nonexistent job of educating customers about the dangers of these plants, and given that at least one local garden nursery and their industry association have insisted on continuing to sell these plants despite the known dangers and deaths, the garden nurseries cannot simply be trusted to improve customer education.

Last winter's severe snow situation is not an excuse for neglecting to remove these plants and ban the selling of them – such severe weather will happen again eventually, and anyhow even a mild winter brings wildlife into yards and public open spaces. Increasing immigration of people into Idaho has meant decreased natural habitat for wildlife and more wildlife searching for forage in yards and public open spaces.

Please enter my comments into the public record. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Eileen Thuesen
4488 N. Waterfront Way
Boise, ID 83703

From: [Elg, Annette](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: Weed Rule 02-06-22
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 2:44:36 PM

My name is Annette Elg and I am opposed to having Taxus yews add to the noxious weeds list in Idaho for the following reasons.

- 1) I live in Southeast Boise in a home with a significant garden presence. I have nightly visits from deer and other wildlife. While the deer have no issue eating lots of things in my yard (rhododendrons, white pines, daylily, sedum, tomatoes, roses, etc.) they have never once gone near the yews I have planted.
- 2) In my mind, something that you consciously plant cannot be called a noxious weed. If as a home or business owner you have strong concerns over yews, don't plant them. Or plant lots of the other yummy things they seem to truly love and they will stay away from yews.
- 3) Yews do not self seed so there is no risk of them spreading like other noxious weeds.

This question needs to be handled with thoughtful consideration. Labeling a plant such as a Tatum yew a noxious weed is not a thoughtful solution.

Sincerely,
Annette Elg

Sent from my iPad