

From: [Megan Roberts](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Subject: Ornamental Yew Plants
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:14:31 AM

Dear Mr. Oakey,

I am a resident of the Warm Springs Mesa neighborhood in Boise. I have also practiced as a Landscape Architect in Boise for the last 30 years. I feel it is critical that we learn to live in harmony with the environment that we inhabit. **When wildlife is dying due to ingesting a plant we have introduced to the area, it is time to eliminate that plant from our landscapes.** We have many deer, some elk and an occasional moose that travel through The Warm Springs Mesa neighborhood throughout the year, it is part of what we enjoy about living in the Boise foothills. Deer rely on foraging through our yards, they eat the apples that fall from our trees as well as graze on various shrubs. It is obvious which evergreens the deer enjoy because they are eaten to the height they can reach. It makes the most sense to use plants in our landscapes that are compatible with the needs of the wildlife we so enjoy.

Nurseries would do a great service to their clientele if they could provide information on which plants are useful to wildlife and which could cause them harm... A warning label on all hazardous plants should be required at a minimum and removing highly toxic plants from the nursery's inventory seems most prudent. Most people don't know how toxic yew plants are, even to people, not only is the foliage toxic but the small red attractive berries are also highly poisonous. There are plenty of other appropriate evergreens that can be sold instead of the ornamental yew, this really should be very little impact on the Idaho Nursery industry.

Due to the toxicity of the yew plants and the tragic impact they have had on wildlife recently. I would like the ornamental yews to be classified as a noxious weed in the control category. This would empower the county weed supervisors to create a plan to get rid of these plants in Idaho.

Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely,

Megan Roberts
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Megan Roberts
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From: [Kristin Porter](#)
To: [Rulesinfo](#)
Cc: troyerbrett@gmail.com
Subject: Toxic Yew Plants
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:36:22 PM

Hello,

We live in the Boise foothills and witnessed Elk deaths this winter due to ingestion of toxic Yew plants.

Unfortunately, many other animal deaths occurred due to this horribly toxic plant. Not only does it affect wildlife, but there are cases of domesticated animals and children who have died from eating as little as a handful of needles.

As outdoorsmen, we understand the importance wildlife has in Idaho on our quality of life, and the impact wildlife has to state revenue.

We were surprised to discover several plants in our neighborhood that could have contributed to the decimation of the Elk herd in NE Boise. Through conversations with neighbors, coworkers, family and friends, we realized there is a lack of awareness of the poisonous nature of Yew to animals and humans.

According to records, there have been 4 reports from the Idaho Poison Control Center of children ingesting this plant in Idaho counties since 2012.

It is unacceptable for retailers to knowingly sell toxic plants for landscaping purposes in Idaho. There are many alternatives to the Yew plant, and it definitely should not be cultivated in our state. . It is non-native, and meets ISDA's own definition of a noxious weed as defined on the 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 in Idaho. Please encourage removal in affected areas. No one wants a repeat of the devastation to wildlife that occurred this winter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kristin Porter
208-870-1234
205 N. al Fresco Pl.