

From: [Brian Oakey](#)
To: [Janis Perry](#)
Cc: [Lloyd Knight](#); [Jared Stuart](#)
Subject: Fwd: IDAPA 02.06.22 – Ornamental yew plants
Date: Friday, July 07, 2017 3:48:10 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sheree Welshimer <shereewelshimer@hotmail.com>
Date: July 7, 2017 at 3:43:30 PM MDT
To: "brian.oakey@isda.idaho.gov" <brian.oakey@isda.idaho.gov>
Cc: "angelarossmann@yahoo.com" <angelarossmann@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: IDAPA 02.06.22 – Ornamental yew plants

Deputy Director Brian Oakey

Idaho State Department of Agriculture PO Box 790 Boise, Idaho 83701

Via Email: rulesinfo@ISDA.IDAHO.GOV Cc: angelarossmann@yahoo.com

July 7, 2017

Re: IDAPA 02.06.22 – Ornamental yew plants

Dear Mr. Oakey,

I live on a small farm in Canyon County where we have raised livestock. As responsible livestock owners, it always made sense to eradicate toxic plants that could be deadly to our animals from our property.

The same can be said for homeowners in Boise who live in areas that are visited by wildlife. It would seem they have a responsibility to rid their yards of plants that can be toxic to wildlife, pets and even people.

I am referring specifically to ornamental yew plants that caused the deaths of at least 28 elk, 50 pronghorns and an unknown number of deer this winter as animals came into yards in search of food not covered by snow. Yew plants also have poisoned and killed four children in Idaho since 2013.

When my husband and I were fledgling sheep farmers decades ago, we were clueless about toxic weeds such as nightshade and hemlock that could kill our animals. We had to educate ourselves and seek the help of others to acquire the knowledge we need to protect our sheep.

Similarly, most people do not know how toxic ornamental yew plants are and that they should remove them. It will take education and the best place to provide that information would seem to be nurseries that sell these plants. However, nurseries often are reluctant to give out information as I found out recently when purchasing some plants that would attract pollinators to my yard. I asked if the plants would harm my pets or wildlife and I got no definitive response. Instead, I had to spend time on the internet researching this myself.

Since nurseries do not seem to want to take the lead in providing this type of information, it is time for the state to step in and classify the yew plant as a noxious weed in the category of control. This would empower the county weed supervisors to develop and carry out a five-year plan to eradicate these plants in Idaho. Additionally, the plants would not be allowed to be sold in Idaho.

Please keep me informed about the direction you pursue in this matter.

Respectfully,

Sheree Welshimer

5320 E. Lewis Lane

Nampa, Idaho 83686

Sent from [Outlook](#)