Deputy Director Brian Oakey Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Dear Brian Oakey,

It has come to my attention that the Department is looking into regulations regarding the poisonous plant, Japanese Yew. As a long time resident of the Treasure Valley and one who values our wildlife, I strongly urge you to support regulations that make it illegal to market this dangerous plant. You are aware of the wildlife deaths it has caused--not just this last winter, but for a number of years in the past. The problem will continue into the future if planting and selling of this noxious plant is not stopped. I sincerely hope that it will be determined that Japanese Yew is indeed a harmful nuisance and that steps will be taken to have it removed, especially in areas bordering wildlife habitat.

As the owner of a small nursery business myself, I find it unconscionable that some nurseries continue to market this plant. I think it is important to note that the Yew is poisonous to people as well as to wildlife. I hope your department will take immediate and strong action to stop sale of the plant.

Thank you for your attention to this problem, Diane M Jones