

Noxious Weed Department

Alan Martinson, Superintendent

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May 10, 2017

Mr. Lloyd Knight, Plant Industries Administrator
Idaho State Department of Agriculture
PO Box 790
Boise, ID. 83701

Dear Mr. Knight,

The Latah County Noxious Weed Department does not support the addition of the *Taxus* species (English Yew and Japanese Yew) to the Idaho noxious weed list.

These species are not the type of plants that I fight in my daily duties as a Weed Superintendent in Latah County. They are not invasive, aggressive plants like Spotted Knapweed, Yellow Starthistle, Rush Skeletonweed, Canada Thistles, and the rest of the plants on the noxious weed list that compete against desirable and native plants that we want to have.

While the incidents this past winter of the wildlife eating Yews and the dying is sad and unfortunate, these happen very rarely. Yews have been in the landscape for many, many years and this is only seems to be an issue when we have extreme winters, the wildlife is pushed down from their normal range, and there is nothing else for them to feed on.

Many other ornamental plants, such as Daffodils, Narcissus, Rhubarb, Wisteria, Oleander, Rhododendron, Hydrangea, and Black Locust are poisonous too. Does adding Yews to the list open the door for other plants like these to be added in the future? Should the Yews be added to the Idaho Noxious Weed list they will be one of the lowest priority weeds I will address because my time is more valuable fighting other noxious weeds like the ones listed above.

In my opinion this is not a statewide issue. If a County, or neighboring Counties deem it necessary to put Yews on the County Weed list, that is the place for it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and participate in the rule making process.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Martinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Martinson
Latah County Weed Superintendent

CC: Adam Schroeder, ISDA Noxious Weeds.
Terry Lee, IAWCS Chairman

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