



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2016

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City of Hailey Encourages Education on Poisonous Plants

(Hailey, Idaho) –

Since late December, when elk died from ingesting portions of the poisonous Japanese Yew plant, consideration has been given by many organizations regarding how to better protect wildlife. Some governments have chosen to adopt ordinances prohibiting the planting of Japanese Yew.

Hailey Mayor Fritz Haemmerle does not believe that anyone intended to harm elk in their landscape designs and choice of plants. Education is a far better remedy in this matter than legislation, which implies that enforcement is required. And, with the emphasis on Japanese Yew, error could again be made by inadvertently selecting another type of poisonous plant for local landscapes. We encourage broad education be undertaken on poisonous plants in general.

There are a variety of toxic plants around us, the danger of which we may not be aware. Community members are encouraged to seek out more information about plants before deciding to put them in their yard or garden. Make the effort to learn about poisonous plants, their effect on wildlife, dogs, and children. Inquire with your landscaper as to their professional knowledge about the plants you are considering purchasing.

University of Idaho Blaine County Extension is a great source of information for homeowners and homeowner associations, especially when it comes to plant identification and information. We have obtained three resources from that office regarding poisonous plants:

Plants Poisonous to Livestock in the Western States
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/PoisonousPlants/PoisonousPlants.pdf>

Poisonous Plants of Southern Idaho
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5182430.pdf

Equines & Toxic Plants
http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/range/toxicplants_horses/index.html

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