



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Poisonous Yew Plant Kills Elk at Hailey Cemetery

(Hailey, Idaho) –

Late in the afternoon of Tuesday, December 29, 2015, the Hailey Cemetery District discovered at least 10 dead elk in their cemetery. The elk died from yew plant poisoning.

The City of Hailey assisted the Hailey Cemetery District in eradication of the plant within the cemetery. Death occurs 48 hours after even a small amount of yew twig, leaf or berry is ingested. The elk trampled and broke the plants into many small pieces. Hailey Public Works crews used loaders and a blower and haul-truck to thoroughly remove bushes and broken branches from the area.

The yew plant is pictured below. Homeowners who have this plant in their yards should make sure wildlife cannot access the plants. If further dead animals are discovered, please report their location to the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

The City of Hailey currently has no authority written into its ordinances to approve plant species selection by homeowners or property owners such as the Hailey Cemetery District.



Our research of the toxicity of yew plant uncovered a September 1, 2005 scholarly article pertaining to veterinary medicine found on the internet entitled: *Toxicology Brief: The dangers of yew ingestion*, written by R.B. Cope, BSc, BVSc, PhD. Within this article is information about the toxicity of this plant to many animal species, including dogs, which can be affected by playing with or chewing on yew branches. Other internet sources identify the plant as potentially dangerous to humans as well.

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