



COURTESY PHOTO

A Douglas-fir beetle nestled within frass it has ejected beneath the bark of a tree.

## Douglas-fir pest outbreak potentially looming for April

SALEM — This winter's heavy snow and wind have knocked down many trees across the state. This has set up perfect conditions for an outbreak of Douglas-fir beetle unless landowners act quickly to either remove the downed or damaged trees or apply an insect pheromone to drive away the pest.

Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl is with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Buhl said that while the beetle (*Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*) is native to the Northwest, its population can soar when living large-diameter Douglas-fir trees are thrown to the ground.

"Normally this pest is scattered on the landscape wherever Douglas-fir grows," said Buhl. "However, they tend to concentrate in tree stands where there has been a lot of storm damage."

Buhl explained that the beetles first attack downed Douglas-firs and then move to nearby standing Douglas-fir trees that are stressed, injured or less vigorous," said Buhl. "Attacked trees that cannot drown out infesting beetles with

pitch die and turn red the same year as the attack or the next spring."

Tell-tale signs of this beetle's presence include frass. This is sawdust-like material the beetle ejects from their galleries underneath the tree's bark, Buhl explained.

Buhl said landowners can prevent Douglas-fir beetle outbreaks by removing large-diameter downed trees before the insects take flight in the spring looking for new homes.

"Before April remove any downed Douglas-firs greater than 10 inches in diameter at a point about chest height," she advised. "Trees with low vigor should also be removed to reduce stand susceptibility to outbreaks. Large amounts of cull trees created by logging also should not be left on site, particularly in shade."

Buhl said the beetles will generally not attack trees that have been dead for over a year.

"If removal is delayed or not possible," said Buhl, "apply the repellent pheromone called MCH to prevent infestation."

A naturally occurring beetle repellent, MCH (methylcyclohexenone), can be applied to downed logs or standing green trees to prevent Douglas-fir beetle attacks. Buhl said MCH pouches are most often applied in a grid pattern within a stand to effectively deter infestation. Beetles approaching treated areas are fooled by the pheromone into sensing that beetles already occupy the site and will pass it by.

"This technique is useful in parks, camps or habitat conservation areas where salvage is not possible, but there is a desire to preserve the remaining standing trees," said Buhl. "It's also helpful in forestlands where downed wood can't be removed before April for one reason or another. However, it will not make beetles that have already infested a tree leave. Once they are in, they're in."

Learn more about Douglas-fir beetle at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Forest Health webpage.

Submitted Report

## 'Sound of Music' opens at Cottage Theatre April 5

Cottage Theatre's spring musical this year is *The Sound of Music*, the inspirational story of Maria von Trapp. Winner of the 1959 Tony Award for Best Musical, *The Sound of Music* features music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. The book, by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, is inspired by *The Trapp Family Singers* by Maria Augusta Trapp. This iconic musical will be onstage for four weekends at

is directed by Joel Ibañez, with music direction by Chris King and choreography by Janet Rust. Costume design is by Rhonda Turnquist, set design by Tony Rust, and lighting design by Amanda Ferguson. The production stars Sabrina Gross as Maria and Nathan Blakely as Captain Georg von Trapp. The seven von Trapp children are played by Hanna Foshay (Liesel), Maia Wilhour (Friedrich), Kira Carver (Louisa), Nicole Wil-

Tickets are available online at [www.cottagetheatre.org](http://www.cottagetheatre.org), by phone at 541-942-8001, or in person at the Cottage Theatre Box Office, 700 Village Drive, Cottage Grove. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth (age 6-18). Box Office hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and one hour before performances.

All seating is reserved. Advanced purchase for seating is recommended.

*In 1930s Austria, a troublesome postulant named Maria proves too high-spirited for the discipline of religious life.*

Cottage Theatre beginning Friday, April 5.

The story behind *The Sound of Music* is well-known thanks to the 1965 movie version starring Julie Andrews. In 1930s Austria, a troublesome postulant named Maria proves too high-spirited for the discipline of religious life, so the Mother Abbess sends her away to care for the children of a widowed naval Captain. As Maria's world turns upside down, she rises to the challenge of befriending the seven youngsters, who have driven away countless prior governesses. Maria's generosity of spirit and her love of music gradually win the children's, and eventually the Captain's, affections. When Austria is invaded by the Nazis, the family flees over the mountains to Switzerland, providing the thrilling finale to this inspirational story.

Cottage Theatre's production of *The Sound of Music*

hour (Brigitta), William Blakely (Kurt), Audriahna Jones (Martha), and Zoe Goings (Gretl). Other featured actors include Tracy Nygard (Mother Abbess), Brittany Dreier (Elsa Schraeder), Blake Nelson (Max Detweiler), and Oshen Parris-Austin (Rolf).

*The Sound of Music* runs for four weekends at Cottage Theatre from April 5-28. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. There is no performance on Easter Sunday, April 21.

*The Sound of Music* will be the final production in Cottage Theatre's current auditorium. The theatre will be closing temporarily in May for a major remodeling project that will add 50 seats. A variety of technical and safety features will also be upgraded. Cottage Theatre will resume its 2019 season in October with *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (abridged).

Submitted Report

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