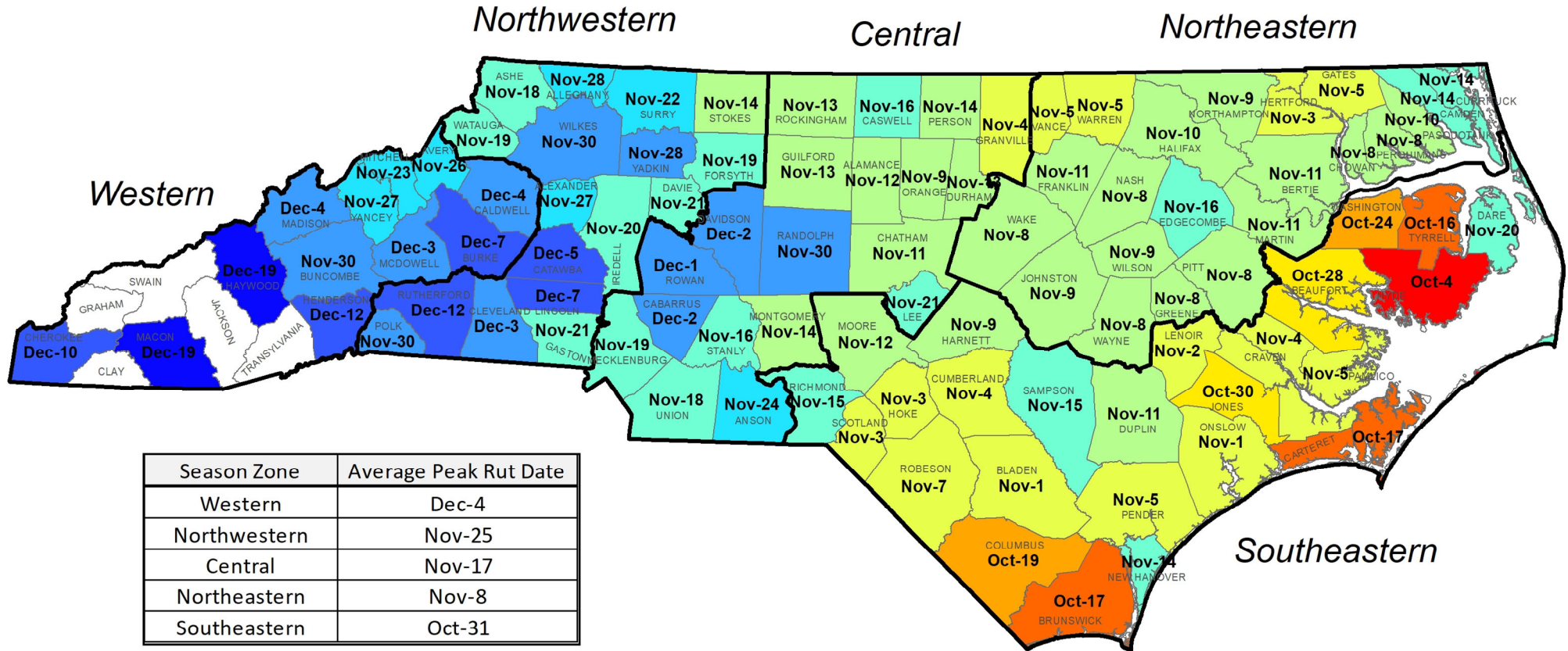


Estimated Peak Rut Dates

Updated 2023



Season Zone	Average Peak Rut Date
Western	Dec-4
Northwestern	Nov-25
Central	Nov-17
Northeastern	Nov-8
Southeastern	Oct-31

Peak rut dates are estimated for each county based on reproductive data collected by biologists from various sources, including roadkill and late season hunter harvested does. The accuracy/precision of the estimated peak rut date for any given county can be influenced by the number of samples collected, and typically there is less confidence in estimates that are based on few samples (see page 2 for county sample sizes). Within any given area, there is considerable variation in the timing of rut activity, and some does are bred before peak rut while others are bred well after peak rut. Little variation exists in peak breeding activity from one year to the next within a given area as doe estrus cycles are triggered by shortening day length during the fall, rather than weather events, including moon phase.

Number of reproductive samples collected through May 2023. Additional samples are needed in some counties to increase precision/accuracy of estimated peak rut dates.

COUNTY	SAMPLES
ALAMANCE	12
ALEXANDER	5
ALLEGHANY	9
ANSON	12
ASHE	11
AVERY	19
BEAUFORT	8
BERTIE	18
BLADEN	11
BRUNSWICK	36
BUNCOMBE	18
BURKE	42
CABARRUS	6
CALDWELL	17
CAMDEN	6
CARTERET	31
CASWELL	5
CATAWBA	18
CHATHAM	12
CHEROKEE	13
CHOWAN	12
CLAY	4
CLEVELAND	5
COLUMBUS	19
CRAVEN	34
CUMBERLAND	6
CURRITUCK	6
DARE	7
DAVIDSON	15
DAVIE	7
DUPLIN	10
DURHAM	6
EDGECOMBE	8
FORSYTH	5

COUNTY	SAMPLES
FRANKLIN	12
GASTON	16
GATES	25
GRAHAM	0
GRANVILLE	5
GREENE	15
GUILFORD	19
HALIFAX	6
HARNETT	9
HAYWOOD	7
HENDERSON	17
HERTFORD	15
HOKE	7
HYDE	286
IREDELL	11
JACKSON	4
JOHNSTON	6
JONES	12
LEE	8
LENOIR	7
LINCOLN	11
MACON	15
MADISON	8
MARTIN	6
MCDOWELL	14
MECKLENBURG	8
MITCHELL	16
MONTGOMERY	111
MOORE	21
NASH	8
NEW HANOVER	6
NORTHAMPTON	10
ONslow	64
ORANGE	7

COUNTY	SAMPLES
PAMLICO	10
PASQUOTANK	7
PENDER	17
PERQUIMANS	15
PERSON	9
PITT	19
POLK	6
RANDOLPH	11
RICHMOND	32
ROBESON	18
ROCKINGHAM	20
ROWAN	10
RUTHERFORD	12
SAMPSON	7
SCOTLAND	5
STANLY	41
STOKES	47
SURRY	20
SWAIN	4
TRANSYLVANIA	3
TYRRELL	6
UNION	9
VANCE	6
WAKE	21
WARREN	8
WASHINGTON	11
WATAUGA	10
WAYNE	11
WILKES	25
WILSON	11
YADKIN	12
YANCEY	15
TOTAL	1,703