BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

DAILY LIMIT 1; SEASON LIMIT 1

WESTERN BEAR SEASON
Oct. 13 – Nov. 22
Dec. 15 – Jan. 1
In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, Cleveland.

Note: Further game land restrictions may apply. See the Game Lands section for specific game land rules.

PIEDMONT BEAR SEASONS

Nov. 15 – Jan. 1
In the following counties:
- Alamance: Granville, Person
- Anson: Guilford, Randolph
- Cabarrus: Lee, Rockingham
- Caswell: Mecklenburg, Rowan
- Chatham: Montgomery, Stanly
- Davidson: Orange, Union
- Durham

Oct. 18 – Jan. 1
In the following counties:
- Franklin: Moore, Vance
- Harnett: Richmond, Wake
- Johnston: Scotland, Warren
- Hoke

Nov. 22 – Jan. 1
In the following counties:
- Alexander: Forsyth, Lincoln
- Catawba: Gaston, Stokes
- Davie: Iredell, Yadkin

EASTERN BEAR SEASONS

Nov. 10 – Jan. 1
In the following counties:
- Bladen: Onslow
- Carteret: Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting)
- Cumberland: bear is prohibited here.
- Duplin: Pender
- New Hanover: Sampson

Dec. 1 – Dec. 20
In the following counties:
- Brunswick: Columbus

Nov. 10 – Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 – Dec. 27
In the following counties:
- Beaufort: Havelock
- Camden*: Hyde
- Chowan*: Jones
- Craven: Lenoir
- Dare: Nash
- Edgecombe: Martin
- Greene: Northampton

*Per local law, bear season opens Nov. 7 in these counties.

Nov. 8 – Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 – Dec. 27
- Bertie: Gates
- Currituck: Herford
- Perquimans

Bear Sanctuaries
Bear may not be taken in those parts of counties included in the following sanctuaries:

Sanctuary: Applicable County or Counties
Bachelor Bay Bear Sanctuary: Bertie, Martin and Washington
Bombing Range Bear Sanctuary: Dare
(Bear is prohibited here.)
Columbus County Bear Sanctuary: Columbus
Croatian Bear Sanctuary: Carteret, Craven and Jones
Fires Creek Bear Sanctuary: Clay
Flat Top Bear Sanctuary: Mitchell and Yancey
Green Swamp Bear Sanctuary: Brunswick
Gull Rock Bear Sanctuary: Hyde
Gum Swamp Bear Sanctuary: Pamlico and Beaufort
Harmon Den Bear Sanctuary: Haywood
Panthertown-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary: Jackson
Mt. Mitchell Bear Sanctuary: McDowell and Yancey
North River Bear Sanctuary: Camden and Currituck
Pisgah Bear Sanctuary: Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania
Pungo River Bear Sanctuary: Hyde
Rich Mountain Bear Sanctuary: Madison
Sherwood Bear Sanctuary: Haywood
Standing Indian Bear Sanctuary: Macon
Suggs Mill Pond Bear Sanctuary: Bladen
Thurmond Chatham Bear Sanctuary: Wilkes
Wayah Bear Sanctuary: Macon

The following additional restrictions apply to bear sanctuaries:
- It is unlawful to take feral swine on bear sanctuaries except during the deer archery season, deer blackpowder season, deer gun season and any small game season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.
- Dogs may not be used to take feral swine.
- Dogs may not be used to pursue bear.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 until the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

DEER

EASTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 13 – Oct. 3
Blackpowder: Oct. 4 – Oct. 17
Gun: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1

CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 13 – Oct. 31
Blackpowder: Nov. 1 – Nov. 14
Gun: Nov. 15 – Jan. 1

(continued on page 55)
WESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 13 – Sept. 28
Oct. 12 – Nov. 23
Blackpowder: Sept. 29 – Oct. 11
(See page 55 for either-sex days during blackpowder season)
Gun: Nov. 24 – Dec. 13

*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.
Note: The Gun Season in Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford counties ends Dec. 27, except for South Mountains Game Land (see Game Lands section).
HUNTING REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept.13 – Nov. 7
Blackpowder: Nov. 8 – Nov. 21
Gun: Nov. 22– Jan. 1

Does not include that portion of Buffalo Cove Game Land in Wilkes Co. (see Game Lands section).

*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.
CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 13 – Oct. 31
Blackpowder: Nov. 1 – Nov. 14
Gun: Nov. 15 – Jan. 1

*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.
**EASTERN DEER SEASON**

**Gun Either-Sex Season**

*(Maximum Season)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct. 18 – Jan. 1</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bertie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bladen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
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<td>Camden</td>
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<td>Carteret</td>
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<td>Currituck</td>
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<td>Dare</td>
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<td>Duplin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgecombe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Archery: Sept. 13 – Oct. 3

Blackpowder: Oct. 4 – Oct. 17

Gun: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1

Does not include Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek and Sandhills game lands. (See Game Lands section.)

*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.*
DEER HUNTING WITH USE OF DOGS

*Check “Local Laws” and “Game Lands” sections for additional restrictions that may apply.

Note: See “Manner of Taking: Hunting with Dogs” section on pages 41–42 for the allowed/prohibited boundaries within split counties.
No person shall, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 1/2 hour before sunrise, intentionally shine a light upon a deer or intentionally sweep a light in search of deer in these areas.

No person shall, between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise, intentionally shine a light upon a deer or intentionally sweep a light in search of a deer in these areas.

Unlawful to shine a light intentionally upon a deer or to sweep a light in search of a deer at any time.

No local light laws as of Jan. 1, 2014.
HUNTING REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

NORTH CAROLINA GOOSE ZONES

Resident Population Zone
Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in blue. Parts of counties are described below:

Bertie: that portion south and west of a line formed by N.C. 45 at the Washington Co. line to U.S. 17 in Midway. U.S.17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor. U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford Co. line

Halifax: that portion west of N.C. 903

Montgomery: that portion east of N.C. 109

Richmond: all of the county except that portion that is south of N.C. 73 and west of U.S. 220 and north of U.S. 74

Southern James Bay Hunt Zone
Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in green. Parts of counties are described below:

Halifax: that portion east of N.C. 903

Montgomery: that portion west of N.C. 109

Richmond: that portion that is south of N.C. 73 and west of U.S. 220 and north of U.S. 74

Northeast Hunt Zone
Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in yellow. Parts of counties are described below:

Bertie: that portion north and east of a line formed by N.C. 45 at the Washington Co. line to U.S. 17 in Midway. U.S.17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor.

Gaddy’s Goose Refuge: Closed season for Canada geese after Sept. 30

Portion of Anson Co. north of Ansonville shown in red

For a complete description refer to page 59 of the Regulations Digest or go to our website www.ncwildlife.org.
(continued from page 46)

NORTHEASTERN DEER SEASON
Archery: Sept. 13 – Nov. 7
Blackpowder: Nov. 8 – Nov. 21
Gun: Nov. 22 – Jan. 1

WESTERN DEER SEASON
Archery: Sept. 13 – Sept. 28 and Oct. 12 – Nov. 23
Blackpowder: Sept. 29 – Oct. 11
Gun: Nov. 24 – Dec. 13

Seasons  See the maps on the preceding pages for either-sex season dates for deer and exceptions to the season listed above.

- Seasons for deer with visible antlers and other weapons seasons on game lands follow the season for the county in which they are located except for Buffalo Cove Game Land, Nicholson Creek Game Land, Rockfish Creek Game Land, Sandhills Game Land and South Mountains Game Land. See the Game Lands section for additional restrictions on these Game Lands seasons. Refer to the “Game Lands” section for Gun Either-Sex Deer Season dates on game lands.

General Restrictions

- Any person hunting deer during a deer firearms season shall wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This includes hunting on Sundays during the blackpowder or gun seasons, even though hunters may only use archery equipment on Sundays. Landholders, their spouses and children hunting on land held by the landholder do not have to wear hunter orange.
- Deer with visible antlers may be taken during any open deer season. Antlerless deer may only be taken during either-sex deer seasons. See next column for information about either-sex seasons.
- Visible antlers are defined as bony structures that protrude through the skin. Knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet are not considered visible antlers.
- It is unlawful to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears. Processed food products or any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products.
- The placement of commercially available mineral supplements specifically and exclusively marketed for attracting or feeding deer is allowed anywhere in the state, except on game lands.

Weapons and Dogs

- Archery. During the archery season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows and crossbows (both described on page 41). It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 41 for details.
- Blackpowder. During the blackpowder season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 41), and blackpowder firearms as defined on page 41. It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 41 for details.
- Gun. During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 41), blackpowder firearms, shotguns, rifles, and handguns. Hunters may use dogs to hunt deer during this season in counties indicated on the map on page 52, and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.

Bag Limits

- The big game hunting license authorizes the hunter to harvest up to six deer. All six deer can be antlerless for all areas of the state. The season limit for antlered deer in the Eastern Deer Season is four. The season limit for antlered deer in the Central,

Northwestern, and Western deer seasons is two.
- There is no daily bag limit.
- The possession limit for antlered deer is the same as the season limit.
- The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in areas with a maximum either-sex season, or in those areas participating in the Urban Archery Season, is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license and any Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards he may have procured. The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in all other areas is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license.
- Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards allow for the harvest of two additional antlerless per card. These are NOT valid for use on game lands. Unlimited Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are available to each hunter. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are valid during archery, blackpowder, and gun season in those areas with a maximum either-sex gun season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are valid in cities, towns and villages participating in the Urban Archery Season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards can be obtained at most wildlife service agents, or online at ncwildlife.org or by calling 888-248-6834.
- Antlerless deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and tagged with harvest tags provided with the program are not included in normal statewide bag limits.
- Note: Antlerless deer may be taken only in those areas and during those times described elsewhere in this publication.

Either-Sex Deer Seasons

Archery Deer Season
- Deer of either sex may be taken during archery deer season in all areas (includes game lands).

Blackpowder Firearm Deer Season
- Deer of either sex may be taken during the last day of the blackpowder firearm deer season in and west of Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties (includes game lands).
- Deer of either sex may be taken anytime during the blackpowder firearm deer season in and east of Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga and Ashe counties (includes game lands).

Gun Either-Sex Deer Season
- Deer of either sex may only be taken during the gun season during those dates indicated on pages 48–51. Most gun either-sex seasons fall under one of the following four categories in North Carolina:
  - M aximum: Either-sex harvest is allowed the entire gun season.
  - Moderate: Either-sex harvest is allowed the first six open days and the last six open days of the regular gun season.
  - Conservative: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last six open days of the regular gun season.
  - Introductory: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last open day of the regular gun season.

Urban Archery Season
- Archery only: Jan. 10 – Feb. 14, 2015

Information for Hunters

- The intention of the Urban Archery Season is to enable cities, towns and villages to reduce urban deer populations through increased hunter opportunity. Hunting during the Urban Archery Season is allowed ONLY in participating municipalities.
- Each city, town and village will decide if hunting is allowed on public property and restrictions, if any, for hunting on private property within the city, town and village limits.
- Hunters wishing to hunt in an area participating in the Urban Archery Season should call the participating city, town or village or visit its website to obtain a map showing lawful areas to hunt.
and additional information on specific restrictions that may apply to each area.

- The Urban Archery Season does not obligate private landowners to allow hunting on their property, nor does it eliminate the ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. Hunters are legally required to obtain written permission to hunt on posted property.

The 2015 participating cities, towns and villages are:

- Albemarle 704-984-9656 bhinson@ci.albemarle.nc.us
- Archer Lodge 919-359-9727 www.townoarcherlodge.com
- Belmont 704-825-5586 www.cityofbelmont.org
- Boiling Springs 704-434-2357 www.boilingspringsnc.net/police
- Chapel Hill 919-968-2784 www.townofchapelhill.org
- China Grove 704-857-2466 www.chingavenc.gov
- Cleveland www.clevelandnc.org
- Concord 704-920-5000 www.concordnc.gov
- Earl 704-481-1500 www.townofearl.org
- Elkin 336-794-6464 www.elkinnc.org
- Fairview 704-564-3412 www.fairviewnc.gov
- Franklinville 336-824-2604 www.townoffranklinvillenc.org
- Harrisburg 704-455-0708 www.harrisburgnc.org
- Huntersville 704-875-6541 www.huntersville.org
- Indian Trail 704-821-5401
- Jefferson 336-846-9368
- Jonesville 336-835-3426 www.jonesvillenc.gov
- Kannapolis 704-920-4000 kjackson@cityofkannapolis.com
- Landis 704-857-4114 Andrew@townoflandis.com
- Lattimore 704-434-2620 www.locustnc.com; flhartsell@locustnc.com
- Locust 704-888-2232 www.townoflocust.us
- Mooresboro 704-434-5666 www.townofmooresboro.org
- Morganton 828-432-2673 bbradshaw@morgantonsp.org
- Mount Pleasant 704-436-9803 www.townofmountpleasantnc.org
- Nags Head/ Kill Devil Hills 252-441-2525
- New London 704-463-5423
- North Wilkesboro 336-667-7129 townmanager@north-wilkesboro.com Ext. 3012
- Norwood 704-474-3416 www.norwoodnc.com
- Oak Ridge 336-644-7009 www.oakridgencc.com
- Oakboro 704-485-3331 www.oakborocom.com
- Pittsboro 336-495-7500 www.pittsboronc.gov
- Pleasant Garden 336-674-3002 www.pleasantgarden.net
- Randleman 336-495-7500 www.cityofrandleman.com
- Richfield 704-463-1308 richfieldnc@aol.com
- Ronda 336-835-2061 townofronda@embarqmail.com
- Sanford 919-777-1104 www.sanfordnc.net
- St. James 910-253-4730 www.townofstjamesnc.org; tosji@atmc.net
- Stallings 704-821-8557 www.stallingsnc.org
- Stanfield 704-888-2386 www.stanfieldnc.com
- Stokesdale www.stokesdale.org
- Summerfield 336-643-8655 www.summerfieldgov.com
- Trent Woods 252-637-3030 trentwoodsp.org
- Troutman 704-528-7600 www.townoftrotman.org
- Unionville 704-226-1989 www.unionvillenc.com
- Valdese 828-879-2120 www.ci.valdese.nc.us
- Wake Forest 919-435-9612 sccashwell@wakeforestnc.gov www.wakehaw.com
- Waxhaw www.waxhaw.com
- Weddington 704-846-2709 www.townofweddington.com
- Wentworth 336-342-6288 townhall@trialrr.com/ www.townofwentworth.com
- Yadkinville 336-679-8732 www.yadkinville.org

- Season bag and possession limits for both antlerless and antlered deer, including Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards, that apply to the general archery, blackpowder, and gun deer seasons also apply to the Urban Archery Season.
- Deer of either sex may be harvested in participating areas during the Urban Archery Season. Hunters harvesting an adult buck that has dropped its antlers should validate the kill and insert the harvest authorization number on an authorization space specified for an antlerless deer on the hunter’s Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Card.

Information for cities, towns and villages

The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Division of Wildlife Management at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

WILD TURKEY

WILD TURKEY SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Possession and season limit 2, only one of which may be taken during the youth season

Youth Season (male or bearded turkey only): Apr. 4 – Apr. 10, 2015

Turkey hunting by youth during this season is allowed statewide, but some game lands will require a permit (see Game Lands section). Each youth hunting during this season must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age (“Youth” means a person less than 16 years of age). The adult may accompany more than one youth during any particular hunt and the adult may NOT harvest a turkey. Only one weapon is allowed per youth hunter. Each youth must have a Big Game Harvest Report Card and report harvests according to instructions in this Digest. License-exempt youth should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters.

Statewide Spring Season (male or bearded turkey only)

Apr. 11 – May 9, 2015

Restrictions: It is unlawful to:

- Use dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to hunt wild turkey.
- Take wild turkeys from an area in which bait has been placed. (An area is considered baited until 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.)
- Possess live wild turkeys or live birds that are indistinguishable from wild turkeys.

BIG GAME HARVEST REPORTING

Validating a Harvest Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter must validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card, furnished with the big game hunting license, by cutting or punching out the crosshair symbol next to the appropriate authorization line. Instructions in this section also apply to the Bonus Antlerless Report Card.

Registering a Harvest The hunter must register any harvested bear, deer or wild turkey within 24 hours of the harvest and before it is skinned, dressed or dismembered.

Harvest ID: Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Hunters must locate the Harvest ID number next to the animal type they harvested and provide this number when registering the harvest through a cooperating agent, the telephone reporting system or the online reporting system.

Please note: For the convenience of the reader, major regulation changes appear in RED.