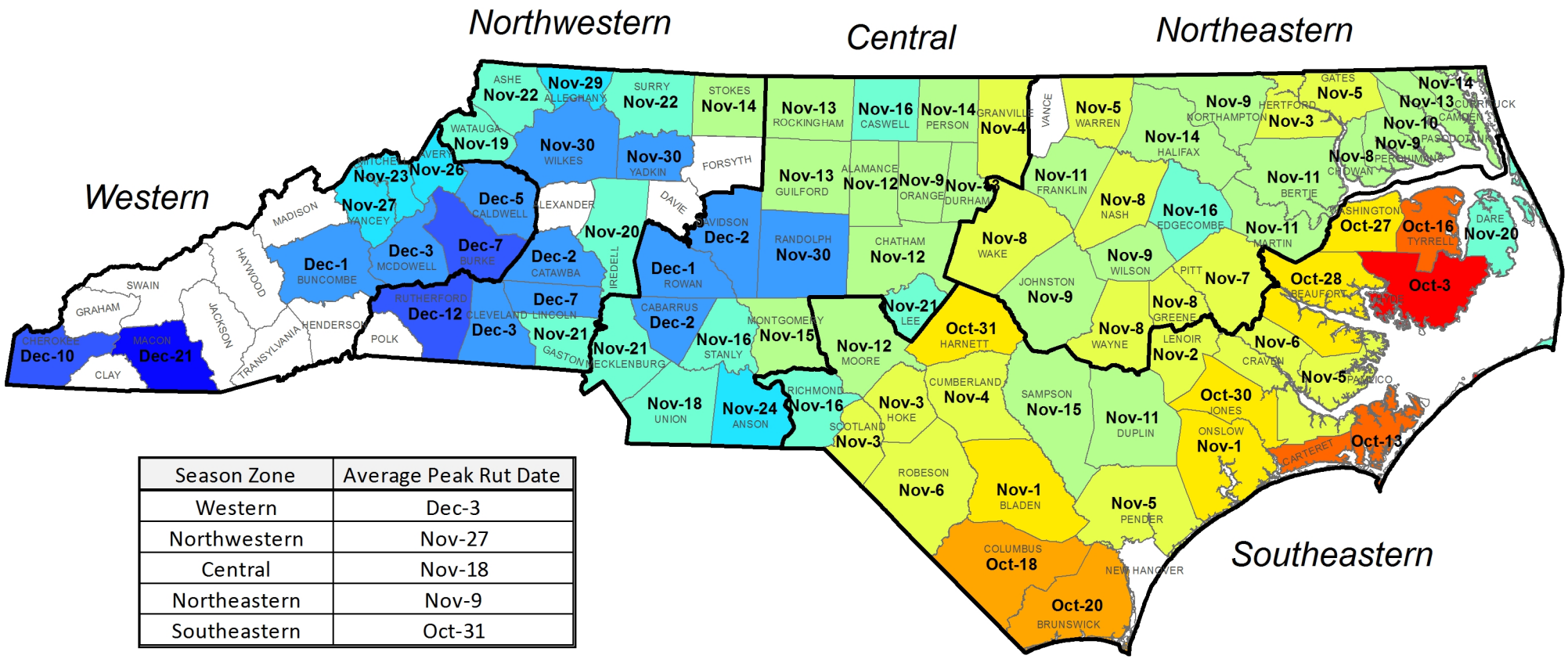
# Estimated Peak Rut Dates

***Updated 2020***




| Season Zone | Average Peak Rut Date |
|---|---|
| Western | Dec-3 |
| Northwestern | Nov-27 |
| Central | Nov-18 |
| Northeastern | Nov-9 |
| 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 2020. Additional samples are needed in some counties to increase precision/accuracy of estimated peak rut dates.

| COUNTY | SAMPLES |
|---|---|
| ALAMANCE | 12 |
| ALEXANDER | 4 |
| ALLEGHANY | 7 |
| ANSON | 12 |
| ASHE | 8 |
| AVERY | 18 |
| BEAUFORT | 8 |
| BERTIE | 18 |
| BLADEN | 11 |
| BRUNSWICK | 26 |
| BUNCOMBE | 11 |
| BURKE | 42 |
| CABARRUS | 6 |
| CALDWELL | 15 |
| CAMDEN | 5 |
| CARTERET | 24 |
| CASWELL | 5 |
| CATAWBA | 15 |
| CHATHAM | 9 |
| CHEROKEE | 11 |
| CHOWAN | 12 |
| CLAY | 0 |
| CLEVELAND | 5 |
| COLUMBUS | 18 |
| CRAVEN | 24 |
| CUMBERLAND | 6 |
| CURRITUCK | 6 |
| DARE | 7 |
| DAVIDSON | 15 |
| DAVIE | 3 |
| DUPLIN | 10 |
| DURHAM | 6 |
| EDGECOMBE | 8 |
| FORSYTH | 4 |

| COUNTY | SAMPLES |
|---|---|
| FRANKLIN | 12 |
| GASTON | 16 |
| GATES | 25 |
| GRAHAM | 0 |
| GRANVILLE | 5 |
| GREENE | 15 |
| GUILFORD | 19 |
| HALIFAX | 5 |
| HARNETT | 7 |
| HAYWOOD | 2 |
| HENDERSON | 4 |
| HERTFORD | 15 |
| HOKE | 7 |
| HYDE | 260 |
| IREDELL | 11 |
| JACKSON | 1 |
| JOHNSTON | 6 |
| JONES | 12 |
| LEE | 8 |
| LENOIR | 7 |
| LINCOLN | 11 |
| MACON | 10 |
| MADISON | 4 |
| MARTIN | 6 |
| MCDOWELL | 14 |
| MECKLENBURG | 7 |
| MITCHELL | 15 |
| MONTGOMERY | 85 |
| MOORE | 20 |
| NASH | 8 |
| NEW HANOVER | 3 |
| NORTHAMPTON | 10 |
| ONSLOW | 55 |
| ORANGE | 7 |

| COUNTY | SAMPLES |
|---|---|
| PAMLICO | 10 |
| PASQUOTANK | 7 |
| PENDER | 17 |
| PERQUIMANS | 14 |
| PERSON | 9 |
| PITT | 18 |
| POLK | 3 |
| RANDOLPH | 11 |
| RICHMOND | 18 |
| ROBESON | 16 |
| ROCKINGHAM | 20 |
| ROWAN | 10 |
| RUTHERFORD | 12 |
| SAMPSON | 7 |
| SCOTLAND | 5 |
| STANLY | 34 |
| STOKES | 46 |
| SURRY | 20 |
| SWAIN | 0 |
| TRANSYLVANIA | 2 |
| TYRRELL | 6 |
| UNION | 9 |
| VANCE | 3 |
| WAKE | 21 |
| WARREN | 8 |
| WASHINGTON | 10 |
| WATAUGA | 10 |
| WAYNE | 11 |
| WILKES | 24 |
| WILSON | 11 |
| YADKIN | 8 |
| YANCEY | 15 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,498** |