

- 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

YOUTH DEER HUNTING DAY

September 23, 2017

On this day, youth under the age of 18 may use any legal weapon to hunt deer of either sex. See page 42 for description of legal weapons. Hunters age 18 and older may only use the weapon legal for the type of season open in their county on this day. All hunters must wear hunter orange on this day, even if the hunter is using archery equipment.

EASTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Sept. 29, 2017

Blackpowder: Sept. 30 – Oct. 13, 2017

Gun: Oct. 14 – Jan. 1, 2018

CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Oct. 27, 2017

Blackpowder: Oct. 28 – Nov. 10, 2017

Gun: Nov. 11 – Jan. 1, 2018

NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Nov. 3, 2017

Blackpowder: Nov. 4 – Nov. 17, 2017

Gun: Nov. 18, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

WESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Oct. 1, 2017, Oct 15 – Nov. 19, 2017, and Dec. 10, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018 (antlered deer only)

Blackpowder: Oct. 2 – Oct. 14, 2017

Gun: Nov. 20 – Dec. 9, 2017 (except in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties where the gun season is extended to Jan. 1)

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 with archery equipment on Sundays. This also includes anyone hunting on Youth Deer Hunting Day, regardless of age of the hunter or weapon used. 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 or 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 42). It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.
- Blackpowder. During the blackpowder season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), and blackpowder firearms as defined on page 42. It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.
- Gun. During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), blackpowder firearms, shotguns, rifles, and handguns. Hunters may use dogs to hunt deer during this season in counties indicated on the map on page 54, and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 43 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 deer 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 also 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.

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Either-Sex Deer Seasons

Youth Deer Hunting Day

- Deer of either sex may be taken by hunters under **the age of 18** on this day.

Archery Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken during archery deer season in all areas (includes game lands) **in and east of Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk counties.**
- **Deer of either sex may be taken during the first and second archery deer seasons in all areas (includes game lands) in and west of Henderson, Buncombe, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell and Avery counties.**

Blackpowder Firearm Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken during the last day of the black-powder 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 50–53. Most gun either-sex seasons fall under one of the following four categories in North Carolina:
 - Maximum: Either-sex harvest is allowed the entire gun season.
 - Moderate: Either-sex harvest is allowed the first six open days and the last seven 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. 13 – Feb. 17, 2018

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 2018 participating cities, towns and villages are:

Albemarle	704-984-9560	cindyburriss@ci.albemarle.nc.us
Archer Lodge	919-359-9727	www.townofarcherlodge.com
Belmont	704-825-5586	www.cityofbelmont.org
Boiling Springs		www.boilingspringsnc.net
Chapel Hill	919-968-2784	parksrec@townofchapelhill.org
China Grove	704-857-2466	www.chinagrovecnc.gov
Clayton	919-553-5002	www.townofclaytonnc.org
Cleveland		www.clevelandnc.org
Concord	704-920-5000	www.concordnc.gov/police
Denton	336-859-4231	
Earl	704-481-1500	www.townofearl.org
Elkin	336-794-6464	www.elkinnc.org
Fairview	704-753-1981	
Franklinville	336-824-2604	franklinvillenc@triad.rr.com
Glen Alpine	828-584-2622 Ext. 3	www.townofglenalpine.org
Granite Quarry	704-279-5596	www.granitequarrync.gov
Grifton	252-524-5168	townmanager@grifton.com
Harrisburg	704-455-0708	wkrimminge@harrisburgnc.org
Huntersville	704-875-6541	www.huntersville.org
Indian Trail	704-821-5401	www.indiantrail.org
Jamestown	336-454-1138	www.jamestown-nc.gov
Jefferson	336-846-9368	www.townofjefferson.org
Jonesville	336-835-3426	townclerk@jonesvillenc.gov
Kannapolis	704-920-4071	tspry@kannapolisnc.gov
King	336-983-8265	www.ci.king.nc.us
Landis	704-857-4114	Andrew@townoflandis.com
Lattimore	704-434-2620	townoflattimore@gmail.com
Lenoir	828-757-2200	www.williamflorenoir.com
Locust	704-888-5260	www.locustnc.com
Midland	704-888-2232	www.townofmidland.us
Mineral Springs	704-243-0505	www.mineralspringsnc.com
Mooresboro	704-434-5666	
Morganton	828-432-2673	www.morgantonnc.gov
Mount Pleasant	704-436-9803	townhall@mtpleasantnc.us
Nags Head/ Kill Devil Hills	252-441-2525 Ext. 2	
New London	704-463-5423	
North Wilkesboro	336-667-7129 Ext. 3012	www.north-wilkesboro.com
Oakboro	704-485-3351	www.oakboro.com
Oak Ridge	336-644-7009	www.oakridgenc.com
Pineville	704-889-2291	www.pinevillenc.gov
Pittsboro	919-542-3200	http://pittsboronc.gov
Pleasant Garden	336-674-3002	www.pleasantgarden.net
Randleman	336-495-7500	www.cityofrandleman.com
Red Cross	704-485-2002	aloma@townofredcross.com
Richfield	704-463-1308	richfieldnc@aol.com
Ronda	336-835-2061	
Sanford	919-777-1104	www.sanfordnc.net
Shelby	704-484-6801	www.cityofshelby.com
Stallings	704-821-8557	www.stallingsnc.org
Stanfield		www.stanfieldnc.com
Stokesdale	336-643-4011	www.stokesdale.org
Summerfield	336-643-8655	www.summerfieldgov.com
Trent Woods	252-637-3030	www.trentwoodspd.org
Troutman	704-528-7600	www.troutmannnc.gov
Unionville	704-226-1989	townofunionville@aol.com
Valdese	828-879-2120	www.townofvaldese.com
Wake Forest		ddoherty@wakeforestnc.gov
Walnut Creek	919-778-9687	www.walnutcreekncc.com
Waxhaw	704-843-2195	www.waxhaw.com
Weddington	704-846-2709	www.townofweddington.com
Wentworth	336-342-6288	www.townofwentworth.com
Yadkinville	336-679-8732	pwilliams@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 Wildlife Management Division 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. 7 – 13, 2018

Turkey hunting by youth during this season is allowed statewide, but some game lands will require a permit (see Game Lands section). Only youth can hunt during this season and 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. 14 – May 12, 2018

Note: For information on permit hunts for select Game Lands, refer to the Game Lands section.

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. Hunters should retain only one copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card per hunting season. If the hunter has received a replacement copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must ensure that all previous harvest authorization numbers are copied over to their new card and destroy their original copy.

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 participating wildlife service agent, the telephone reporting system or the online reporting system. Each Harvest ID can only be used once.
- Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by phone or internet will be given their Harvest ID numbers for temporary use until they receive their official Big Game Harvest Report Card in the mail. If the hunter harvests a big game animal before receiving their official Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must retain the authorization number for the reported harvest. Immediately upon receipt of the Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must transcribe those authorization numbers and validate the appropriate line on their card.
- Big game animals may be field dressed before being registered. Field dressing includes bleeding and removal of digestive, respiratory and circulatory organs, but the hunter may not mutilate the carcass in a manner that obscures the identity, age or sex.
- When a kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from being transported as an entire carcass, the animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered.
- When a hunter harvests an animal in a remote area and plans to remain in the area for longer than a day, the 24-hour time is extended until the hunter leaves the area. However, the hunter must immediately register the animal upon leaving the remote area.
- Big game harvests may be registered in one of **three** ways:
 1. By calling the toll-free phone number, 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663). A touch tone telephone is required.
 2. By using the Internet and clicking the "Report a Harvest" link located on the NCWRC home page (www.ncwildlife.org).
 3. By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife service agent location (www.ncalvin.org/WildlifeServiceAgentMVC).

Recording the Authorization Number When a successful hunter registers a big game harvest, the hunter will be issued an authorization number for the animal. The hunter shall then record the authorization number in the space provided, immediately adjacent to the validation mark that has been cut or punched out on the Big Game Harvest Report Card. This record shall thereafter constitute the authorization for continued possession of the carcass. It shall be unlawful for a person to possess a Big Game Harvest Report Card on which the species validation mark has been cut or punched out, but on which the authorization number has not been recorded, unless the animal is in the person's possession or it has been identified by with your name, hunting license number and date of kill.

Identifying an Unattended Kill Persons killing a big game animal and leaving it unattended must identify the carcass with their name, hunting license number and date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, it need only be identified with the authorization number.

Reporting for License-Exempt Hunters Persons who are by law exempt from the Big Game Hunting License requirement shall obtain a License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card from a wildlife service agent at no cost. Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate the License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card and report the big game kill using the same registration methods listed above.

Deer Management Assistance Program Harvest Reporting Persons harvesting deer under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements described in the instructions they have received as a participant in the DMAP.