Big Game Hunting

Hunting Hours
Big game hunting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise to 1/2-hour after sunset (see page 80). Sunday hunting is allowed in all areas of New York. For hunting on state lands confirm regulations for the area before hunting.

Fluorescent Orange & Fluorescent Pink Clothing Requirements
Any person hunting deer or bear with a firearm or a person who is accompanying someone hunting deer or bear with a firearm shall wear:
1. a minimum total of 250 square inches of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or
2. a minimum total of 250 square inches of patterned fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink consisting of no less than fifty percent fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or
3. a hat or cap with no less than 50 percent of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material and visible from all directions.

Legally Antlered Deer
A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is 3" or longer. Antlerless deer are those without antlers (does and fawns) and deer with antlers less than 3" long. Special regulations apply in the Antler Restriction areas. See page 24 for details.

Defining “Early” and “Late” Seasons for Deer and Bear
When you see the term “early” muzzleloader or bowhunting season, it means before the regular season for that particular zone. “Late” means after the regular season for that zone.

Feeding & Baiting Prohibited
Intentional feeding or baiting of deer or bear is prohibited at all times of year. This includes use of mineral blocks or powders. Exempt activities include agricultural plantings, wildlife food plots, and cutting of trees or brush to provide winter forage.

CWD Import Restrictions
Hunters are prohibited from returning to New York with whole carcasses or intact heads of deer, elk, moose, or caribou that they harvest anywhere outside of New York. Only the deboned meat, cleaned skull cap, antlers with no flesh adhering, raw or processed cape or hide, cleaned teeth or lower jaw, and finished taxidermy products of CWD-susceptible animals may be brought into New York. See page 22 (CWD page) for more information.

Manner of Taking
Big game may be taken with centerfire rifles, shotguns, handguns, muzzleloading firearms, bows, and crossbows during appropriate seasons and in designated areas (see maps, pages 24 and 25). You may use decoys, calls and attractant scents to hunt big game.

It is unlawful to:
• Take big game while the deer or bear is in water.
• Possess a firearm of any description when bowhunting or accompanying a person bowhunting during an archery-only season.
• Possess a firearm other than a muzzleloading firearm when hunting deer or bear or when accompanying a person hunting deer or bear during a muzzleloading season.
• Make, set, or use salt licks or other attractants, whether block, liquid, or powder that contains ANY amount of salt, upon lands inhabited by deer or bear at any time of year.

In addition to the general hunting regulations for manner of take listed on page 14, it is unlawful to hunt big game with:
• Dogs or aircraft of any kind, including drones.
• The aid of a pre-established bait pile.
• A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam toward the target (use of illuminated reticle scopes, red dot scopes, or illuminated sight pins is allowed, provided no light is projected toward the target).
• An autoloading firearm with a capacity of more than 6 shells (one which requires that the trigger be pulled separately for each shot), except an autoloading pistol with a barrel length of less than 8 inches.
• A firearm using rimfire ammunition.
• A shotgun of less than 20 gauge or any shotgun loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile (riffing in the barrel or choke is allowed).
• A bow with a draw weight less than 35 lbs.
• Arrows with barbed broadheads; arrowheads less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than 2 sharp cutting edges.
• Double-barreled muzzleloaders or percussion cap revolvers during the special muzzleloading seasons.
• An air gun or air bow.

Deer Management Focus Area
See www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82382.html for information on the Deer Management Focus Area in Tompkins County. Expanded antlerless bag limits and a January antlerless season in this area provide additional opportunities for hunters and help to reduce deer-related conflicts.

Long Island Opportunities
All hunting on state-managed land requires a DEC permit. The archery deer season runs from October through January. There is a January firearms season during which shotguns and muzzleloading firearms can be used. Firearms users must obtain a landowner’s endorsement to hunt during this season, and may also need a town permit. For more information on hunting opportunities visit our website, http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8373.html.

Prohibited Sale of Deer or Bear Meat
It is unlawful to sell deer or bear meat. Other than meat, the parts (e.g., hides, skulls, claws, antlers, and taxidermy mounts or rugs) from legally taken and reported deer and bear may be sold. Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy) is attached.

Meat Unfit for Consumption
If a deer, bear, or turkey is found to be unfit for human consumption, a special permit may be issued that allows the hunter to take another deer, bear, or turkey, provided the season is still open. The entire animal, including the antlers, must be forfeited to get a permit. A permit will not be issued if the meat is unfit due to hunter neglect. Call a Regional Wildlife or Law Enforcement office listed on page 6.

Tagging, Reporting, and Transporting
Deer and bear are in legal possession only when tagged with the appropriate carcass tag, valid for that season, implement, and sex of animal. See page 26 for clear tag descriptions.

Hunters who take a deer in remote areas may wish to bone it out and pack out the meat. This is lawful, but you must retain the carcass tag with the boned out meat.

Tagging and Reporting
After killing a deer or bear:
1. Ensure that you select the proper tag for the harvested deer or bear.
2. Immediately fill in all information and sign the carcass tag with ink that won’t erase.
3. Immediately cut or mark the month and date of kill on the tag reverse.
4. Write the date of kill on the report panel. This will help you when reporting a harvest.

Continued on page 20
Big Game Hunting

Continued from page 18

5. **Attach the tag** to the carcass upon arrival at your camp, home or vehicle. You do not need to attach the tag while it is being dragged or physically carried from the place of kill to a camp or point where transportation is available.

6. **Report your harvest** online, by phone or mobile app within 7 days as required by law. See page 8 for details.

After you have used your last deer tag, you may help others hunt deer. You must have your hunting license with you, and you may not shoot or attempt to shoot a deer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broadheads for Big Game</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Blade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Blade (shown in position of being from an animal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blades pivot forward (no longer barbed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transporting**

Deer and bear may be transported either inside or outside the vehicle.

- A deer carcass with head and deer carcass tag attached may be transported with the taker in attendance.

- If someone other than the taker is transporting the deer or bear, the taker must attach an additional tag to the carcass and include the names and addresses of both the taker and the transporter. The tag may be handwritten in ink or typed on any paper.

- All portions of deer or bear meat being transported by the taker shall be individually tagged and the tags shall include the name, address, big game DOC #, the date that the portions were cut, and the signature of the taker. Packaged or boxed portions of venison need only one tag and must be labeled “venison” on the outside of the box. If someone other than the taker is transporting the portions, an additional tag signed by the taker with the names and addresses of the consignee and taker are required for each portion.

- Non-resident hunters: If your home state prohibits the importation of whole deer carcasses from New York, you will need to follow the above guidelines for transportation of individual or packaged portions of deer meat while in New York State.

- A deer carcass minus the head may be transported as above, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. The deer carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass, and a tag supplied by the taker must also be attached showing the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.

- Heads of male deer may be transported to a taxidermist only if a tag supplied by the taker is attached bearing the taker’s signature, address, big game DOC #, number of points on each antler and the name and address of the taxidermist.

- The head of a doe with antlers that are 3 inches or more can be removed for mounting. Follow the same procedure that you would use for a buck you are having mounted (see above).
Muzzleloader Hunting
Muzzleloading firearms may be used during the muzzleloader and regular seasons, and during the January Firearms season on Long Island. 
• Hunters must possess a current muzzleloader privilege to participate during the muzzleloader seasons.
• The muzzleloader privilege is not needed for hunters to use a muzzleloading firearm during regular seasons.
• Muzzleloaders may not be used in WMUs 3S, 4J, 8C, and may only be used in 1C during the Special Firearms season in January.
• Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons, except in WMUs 1C and 3S.
• Hunters participating in the muzzleloader season shall not have in their possession, or be accompanied by a person who has in his or her possession, a bow or firearm other than a legal muzzleloading firearm or crossbow.

Crossbow Use
Crossbow opportunities include portions of bow seasons in addition to muzzleloader and regular seasons:
• Crossbows may be used to take deer during muzzleloader seasons and a portion of the early bow seasons (see maps on page 25) by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 12-15 only) license and a current muzzleloader privilege. Junior hunters (ages 14-15) may also take bear with crossbows during these seasons (see map on page 39).
• Crossbows may be used to take deer during the regular season by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 12-15) license and to take bear during the early bear and regular seasons by hunters with a valid hunting privilege.
• See page 23 for the required Crossbow Certificate of Qualification. The NYS Legislature does not allow all crossbows to be used to hunt big game in New York. See page 14 for the definition of a legal crossbow.

Bowhunting
Bowhunting opportunities include both the bowhunting and regular seasons:
• Hunters must possess a current bowhunting or junior bowhunting privilege to participate during the bowhunting seasons.
• The bowhunting privilege is not required to hunt with a bow during regular seasons, but hunters must possess proof of eligibility (either a valid bowhunter education certificate or prior bowhunting license).
• Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons except by junior bowhunters or in WMUs 1C and 3S.

Barbed Broadheads
Barbed broadheads are illegal for hunting big game. A barbed broadhead is one in which the angle formed between the trailing or rear edge of any blade and the shaft is less than 90 degrees. A notch at the base of the blade extending no more than two millimeters from the shaft shall not be considered a barb. Broadheads with mechanical blades are legal if the blades DO NOT form a barb or hook when the arrow is pulled from the flesh of a deer or bear. (See graphic on page 20.)

ECO Nate Doig mentored Hunter N. during the 2021 Youth Big Game Hunt in Delaware County. Photo courtesy Hunter’s father.
Chronic Wasting Disease:
Hunters Can Help Keep New York CWD Free

Hunter movement of harvested deer and other CWD-susceptible cervids is the most likely entry route for CWD into New York. Deer and other CWD-susceptible cervids that are illegally imported into New York will be seized and destroyed.

What is CWD?
CWD is a contagious, fatal disease of deer, elk, moose, and caribou. It is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion, and animals become diseased from direct contact with live infected animals, carcass parts, or contaminated soil and plants. Infected deer can look healthy for months or years before dying but can shed infectious prions in saliva, feces, and urine for a long time before they die. There is no cure, vaccine, or genetic resistance to CWD. CWD could appear in New York if hunters aren’t careful.

CWD Would Affect Deer Hunting in NY
Once CWD is established in an area, eliminating the disease is virtually impossible. To contain CWD spread and reduce its prevalence, local deer populations would need to be reduced through hunting and/or culling. Hunting practices would have to change, including mandatory testing of deer, restricted transport and disposal of deer carcasses, and increased harvest of young bucks. Hunters would be encouraged not to consume infected deer.

Don’t Be a CWD Risk!
Most hunters are trying to keep CWD out of New York, but the actions of a careless few can put all deer and moose at risk. The most likely modes of CWD introduction into New York are through: (1) illegal movement of infected carcasses or carcass parts of deer or elk taken by hunters in other states; (2) illegal import of live deer or elk for fee-based shooting of confined animals; or (3) use of infected urine-based lures by hunters.

You Can Help Keep NY CWD Free

Don’t bring home infectious material – Debone your harvest if you hunt outside of New York
Meat, hide and cape, antlers, cleaned skull cap with antlers attached, finished taxidermy mounts, tanned hides, and cleaned upper canine teeth can be brought into New York. Hunters who improperly import whole carcasses or prohibited parts will be ticketed, and the entire animal (including antlers) will be confiscated and destroyed. If you have CWD-positive deboned meat from another state, DEC will assist with safe disposal of the animal and recommend disinfection methods.

Don’t contaminate your hunting spot – Avoid natural deer urine products
These products are made with urine from deer in captive deer facilities. If deer in those facilities are infected with CWD, the scent lures could contain the prions that cause CWD.

Keep New York deer wild and disease free – Do not feed wild deer
Feeding deer is illegal year-round. Concentrating deer around food sources can facilitate the spread of diseases like CWD.

Report sick and abnormal deer to DEC
DEC would like to examine any deer that are very thin, drooling, standing with legs splayed and head lowered, listless, circling, or are easily approached. Contact the DEC Regional Wildlife Office near you (see page 6) or visit www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html.

Import Restrictions and Allowed Parts:

Hunters may not bring whole deer, elk, moose, or caribou into New York. You may only import:
- Deboned meat
- Cleaned skull cap
- Antlers with no flesh
- Raw or processed cape or hide
- Cleaned teeth or lower jaw
- Finished taxidermy products

For information on how to bone-out deer meat to remove high-risk tissues, visit the CWD Alliance: cwd-info.org
Crossbow Hunting Qualifications and Safety Information

A crossbow must have compound or recurve limbs with minimum width of 17 inches (outer tip of limbs excluding wheels and cams, uncocked); a minimum overall length from butt of stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches; and be able to launch a minimum 14 inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It must have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds.

Crossbows may be used by any person age 12 or older to hunt deer and any person age 14 or older to hunt bear, unprotected wildlife and most small game species. Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

Hunters who plan to hunt with a crossbow must have in their possession either their completed Hunter Education Certificate of Qualification card dated on or after April 1, 2014 OR the completed Crossbow Certificate of Qualification located below.

Crossbow safety information

- Before shooting your crossbow, read and thoroughly understand your crossbow owner’s manual.
- Make sure your fingers are well AWAY (below rail) from the path of the bow string and cables.
- Never dry-fire a crossbow (cock and fire without an arrow placed on the rail).
- Never carry a cocked crossbow with an arrow in it while walking.
- If hunting from a tree stand, always cock (but do not load) the crossbow on the ground before climbing into the stand.
- Once seated and secured in the tree stand, pull up your unloaded crossbow with a haul line.
- Do not place an arrow on the crossbow until you are safely secured in your stand.
- Never use a cocking device to uncock a crossbow.
- To uncock a crossbow, shoot an arrow tipped with a field point into the soft ground or a target.
- Always identify your target and the area beyond it before shooting.
- To prevent wounding game, practice often and do not take shots at game that are beyond your effective range, generally less than 30–40 yards, similar to a modern compound bow.
- To better understand how an arrow functions and the skill required for hunting with an arrow, DEC recommends all crossbow hunters take a bowhunter education course.

NYSDEC Crossbow Hunting Qualifications: [https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68802.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68802.html)

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**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Crossbow Certificate of Qualification**

I certify that I have read and understand the safety recommendations, license requirements, and legal specifications for crossbow use in New York.

Print Name

Signature

DEC ID# (this is your back-tag number) Date

Fill in, cut out, and carry afield with your hunting license while hunting with a crossbow.
Big Game Boundary Descriptions/Legal Implements

Complete descriptions of all wildlife management units are available on DEC’s website www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html

Northern-Southern Zone Line

A line commencing at a point at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of that river to the Village of Pulaski, thence southerly along Route 11 to its intersection with Route 49 in the Village of Central Square, thence easterly along Route 49 to its junction with Route 365 in the City of Rome, thence easterly along Route 365 to its junction with Route 28 in the Village of Trenton, thence easterly along Route 28 to its junction with Route 29 in the Village of Middleville, thence easterly along Route 29 to its junction with Route 4, thence northerly along Route 4 to its junction with Route 22, thence northerly and westerly along Route 22 to the eastern shore of South Bay on Lake Champlain in the Village of Whitehall, thence northerly along the eastern shore of South Bay to the New York-Vermont boundary.

Closed Areas

The following closed areas are specific portions of the state where the taking of deer and bear is prohibited by the Environmental Conservation Law. This section does not include areas covered by town laws, local ordinances, or posting by landowners.

Broome County
City of Binghamton

Erie County
Area around Buffalo: bounded by Tonawanda Creek from East Branch Niagra River to Rt. 78 to Greiner Rd. to Rt. 268 to Rt. 5 to Ransom Rd. to Rt. 33 to Rt. 78 to Rt. 20 to Rt. 20A to Lake Erie.

Herkimer County
Area along Big Moose Lake: bounded by Judson Rd. from Herkimer-Hamilton County line to Higby Rd. to Big Moose Rd. to Martin Rd. and along it to its eastern end and then to the lake shore and back (starting westerly) along the shore to Herkimer-Hamilton County line and along it to Judson Rd.

Herkimer and Hamilton Counties
Area bounded by Rt. 28 from Old Forge to Inlet and by South Shore Rd. from Inlet to Old Forge.

Nassau County
All of Nassau County.

New York City
All of the City.

Legislation adopted in 2021 allows 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow under supervision of an adult hunter in upstate counties that choose to participate. For a list of counties that have "opted in" go to https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html

Antler Restriction Program

A mandatory antler point restriction exists in WMUs 3A, 3C, 3H, 3J, 3K, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W in southeastern New York (see deer hunting season maps). This program will continue as DEC encourages hunters elsewhere to practice voluntary restraint. Over time, as more and more hunters in the broader region opt to pass on young bucks voluntarily, it may be appropriate to lift the restrictions.

Antler Identification

Antler Point Restriction
- At least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1” long
- Applies to all public and private land and all seasons
- Hunters aged 12-16 are exempt and may take any buck with antlers 3” or longer

Antlerless Deer
- Adult does, doe fawns, buck fawns (button bucks), adult bucks without antlers, or with antlers less than 3” long
- May be tagged with your DMP or Bow/Muzzleloading antlerless or either-sex tags

This map shows where various hunting implements may be used in the state. Boundary descriptions and closed areas are found below. (Some closed areas are too small to show on the map.)
### Deer Hunting

#### Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons — 2022

**Hunting Hours**
30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTHERN ZONE</th>
<th>Early Bowhunting—All WMUs</th>
<th>Crossbow</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Late Bowhunting—Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHERN ZONE</th>
<th>Early Bowhunting</th>
<th>Crossbow (not in WMUs 4J or 8C)</th>
<th>Regular (open Saturday)</th>
<th>Late Bowhunting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Nov. 18</td>
<td>Nov. 5 - Nov. 18</td>
<td>Nov. 19 - Dec. 11</td>
<td>Dec. 12 - Dec. 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S)</th>
<th>Regular—Bowhunting Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Dec. 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C)</th>
<th>Regular—Bowhunting Only, Special Firearms (Permit Req.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 1, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Antler Point Restrictions**
- During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long.
- Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.
- No Deer Hunting

### Youth Firearms Season

#### Season Dates
Oct. 8 - 10, 2022

**Area Open**
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting-only WMUs

**Eligible Hunters**
Youth aged 14-15 years (all open areas)
Youth aged 12-13 years (select counties, see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html)

**Bag Limit**
One deer (antlered or antlerless)

**Tags**
Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only)
Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

### Muzzleloading Deer Seasons — 2022

**Hunting Hours**
30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northern Zone</th>
<th>Deer of Either Sex</th>
<th>Antlered Deer Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 15 - Oct. 21</td>
<td>Dec. 5 - Dec. 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Zone</th>
<th>Deer of Either Sex</th>
<th>Antlered Deer Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 12 - Dec. 20</td>
<td>Dec. 26 - Jan. 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Antler Point Restrictions**
- During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.
- No Muzzleloading Season

### Crossbows

- May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons.
- May not be used to hunt deer anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J, or 8C.
## Deer Tag Descriptions

For all season dates, see page 25. See page 11 for privilege information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Name</th>
<th>Tag Can Be Used In</th>
<th>Tag Is Valid For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Season Deer Tag</td>
<td>Regular Season</td>
<td>Antlered Deer Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</td>
<td>- Northern Zone</td>
<td>- May be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Southern Zone</td>
<td>• In Westchester County (WMU 3S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westchester County</td>
<td>- Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>• In Suffolk County (WMU 1C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Special Firearms (special permit, see page 18)</td>
<td>• In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk County</td>
<td>- Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>• In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td>• By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone</td>
<td>• IF you have a non- mandatory permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Season Bowhunting (privilege required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Northern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Southern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Northern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Southern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Northern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(check open areas and dates on map page 25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Southern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Deer Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag  | Bowhunting Season (privilege required)                                              | Antlered or Antlerless Deer                                                                                                                       |
| Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.     | - Northern Zone                                                                     | Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County). Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special bowhunting seasons and during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment only. |
|                               | - Southern Zone                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)                                           |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Northern Zone                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | (check open areas and dates on map page 25)                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Southern Zone                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | Westchester County                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Regular (bowhunting only)                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)                                    |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone                                    |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt except as specified in right-hand column.             |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               |                                                                                                                                               |  Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone.                                                                                              |
|                               |                                                                                                                                               |  Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt except as specified in right-hand column.                                                                   |

| Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag  | Bowhunting Season (privilege required)                                              | Antlerless Deer Only                                                                                                                             |
| Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.     | - Northern Zone                                                                     | Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County). |
|                               | - Southern Zone                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)                                           |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Northern Zone                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | (check open areas and dates on map, page 25)                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Southern Zone                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | Westchester County                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Regular (bowhunting only)                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)                                    |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | - Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone                                    |                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt except as specified in right-hand column.             |                                                                                                                                               |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deer Management Permit Deer Tag</th>
<th>Any Open Deer Season</th>
<th>Antlerless Deer Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Valid ONLY for the WMU specified and printed on the DMP Deer Tag (Deer Management Permit) See page 29.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information on which tags may be used when hunting with a crossbow, see page 21.

2022–2023 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
Report Your Moose Sightings

Moose are protected in New York and cannot be hunted. DEC and its research partners are working to understand the status of the moose population. You can help us by reporting moose sightings: https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964.html

Hannah T. got her first deer in 2021 in Greene County, mentored by her cousin Jamie N. 12- and 13-year-olds may now hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow in counties that pass a local law to participate in the opportunity. Visit https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html for a map of participating counties.
Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

Hunters possessing a DMP may take one antlerless deer per permit in addition to any deer that may be taken with a regular hunting license or bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges.

- DMPs may not be used for legally antlered deer (at least one antler 3" or longer).
- DMPs may be used in any open season and only in the WMU they are issued for.
- Hunters may transfer or receive up to 2 DMPs from other hunters (see page 29).

Applying for a deer management permit (DMP)

- DMP Application Deadline: Close of business on October 1, 2022.
- You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone, or online beginning on August 1, 2022.
- DMPs are available to all hunters age 14 years or older who purchase or possess a regular hunting license (12 years old for Junior Bowhunting license holders).
- There is a $10 non-refundable application fee for all applicants. The fee is waived for holders of Lifetime Licenses purchased prior to 10/1/2009, and Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters.
- Know your Wildlife Management Unit ( WMU) before you apply. If you are unsure of your unit, see the WMU maps on pages 66–73 of this guide or visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html for written boundary descriptions. You may also call the DMP Hotline for additional information at 1-866-472-4332.
- You may apply for up to two DMPs. Both must be applied for at the same time. Application can be for DMPs in the same WMU or different WMUs.
- Disabled veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 40% or greater (who are residents of New York) will receive preference on DMPs. Annually, you must bring a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, dated in the current year, with your case number and your disability percentage. If you are claiming permanent disabled status, the letter must clearly state that the 40% or more service-related disability is permanent.
- Landowners: It is illegal for more than one person per 50+ acre tax map ID to apply as a landowner. If you own 50 or more contiguous acres of land within the WMU you will be hunting in, you will receive preference on DMP selection. Annually, you must bring your tax map identification number and SWIS code (found on your tax bill) with you when you apply. Be sure to tell the license-issuing agent PRIOR to applying that you are a landowner. Lessees do not qualify as landowners. Corporate ownership: It is illegal for more than one person to apply as a corporate landowner no matter how many 50-acre parcels are owned. The corporation must submit an original letter or certified copy of a resolution, dated in the current year, designating one individual and must include the tax map ID and SWIS code information.
- Group ownership: It is illegal for more than one person per 50+ acre tax map ID to apply as a landowner, regardless of how many co-owners. Additional 50+ acre parcels in the same WMU require separate tax IDs.
- Preference points:
  - Preference points increase your chances of selection, but do not guarantee DMP selection.

Consider Being a Mentor

By Cliff Cadet

As I sit and write this, I have a diaphragm call in my mouth and my wife and kids are yelling at me to cut it out. They could easily attest that I can often be a pest. But just a few years ago, if you would’ve told me that I’d be practicing turkey calling in anticipation of New York’s spring turkey season, I’d have called you crazy. Sometimes crazy can be good.

Having been born and raised in New York City, I had no knowledge of the public lands available to me. Sadly, my story is not unique. New Yorkers, especially from the City, are often unaware of the beauty the woods have to offer. Even sadder still, is how close we all are to those public spaces.

Since 2019, I’ve been enjoying deer and turkey hunting in New York. I was fortunate to have partnered with a mentor and have been hunting since. The joy of hiking to a hunting spot by the soft glow of moonlight or witnessing a sunrise while sitting high in a tree are pleasures that everyone should experience. Also, learning about wildlife and habitats native to our magnificent state is a responsibility we all should welcome. But it can’t be done without the help of some awesome people.

With the increase in the number of “adult-onset” hunters throughout the U.S., there’s a corresponding need for folks to serve as mentors. I was privileged to have been mentored by a knowledgeable and patient (extremely patient) hunter. It was through his tutelage that I was able to understand and learn the skills necessary to hunt New York’s woods. Our mentor/mentee relationship has evolved and I’m proud to now call him a friend.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping in New York can be humbling experiences.

Cliff Cadet in his tree stand.

These outdoor spaces do not discriminate; they can often be seen as a great equalizer. If you’re a seasoned outdoorsperson, consider stepping out of your comfort zone and taking someone under your wing. Show them the joy you’ve experienced in our State’s woods. Trust me. You won’t regret it.
ADD GREEN TO YOUR PROPERTY
With Trees and Shrubs from DEC’s Nursery

Dozens of varieties of NY-grown seedlings are available for affordable prices during our annual sale, open January through mid-May.

Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery
(518) 581-1439
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395.html

DMP selection order
During the instant issuance, an applicant’s chances of selection are determined by an applicant’s category. The categories, in priority order, are as follows:
1. Landowners (50 or more acres of land within a WMU) and Disabled Veterans (40% or more service-related disability). All applicants in this category will receive their first-choice DMP.
2. NYS Residents and Non-residents with 3 Preference Points
3. NYS Residents with 1–2 Preference Points
4. NYS Residents without Preference Points
5. Non-residents with 1–2 Preference Points
6. Non-residents without Preference Points

Additional DMP opportunities
Bonus DMPs: If you fill a DMP in bowhunting-only WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J and 8C, you can apply for a bonus permit for another antlerless deer. Bonus permits may only be obtained from regional wildlife staff at predetermined locations. For complete information, visit our website or call a DEC Regional Wildlife Office as follows:

WMU 1C: 1-631-444-0310
WMU 3S: 1-845-256-3098
WMU 4J: 1-518-357-2154
WMU 8C: 1-585-226-5380

Leftover DMPs: If there are still permits remaining after the initial DMP issuance period closes on October 1 and the back-end correction selections have occurred, the remaining DMPs may be available on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning on or around November 1. These DMPs are only available in person at license-issuing agents. Leftover DMPs will not be available by phone or online. The Wildlife Management Units with permits available will be announced by news release and on our website (www.dec.ny.gov). If you already applied for a Deer Management Permit during the initial application period, there is no additional application fee. If you are applying during the first time this hunting season, you will have to pay a $10 application fee. Fee is waived for Resident and Non-resident Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters, and for Lifetime license holders who purchased prior to October 1, 2009. You will be allowed up to two DMPs during the first-come/first-served application period in addition to any you may have received during the initial application period.

Deer Management Assistance Program
The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enables wildlife biologists to help landowners and resource managers implement site-specific deer management on their lands. In doing so, DEC issues a special permit for use only during the open deer hunting seasons and a determined number of antlerless deer tags to landowners or resource managers whose property is in need of site-specific deer management efforts. Hunters are expected to report their harvest. For more information on the program, refer to http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83973.html.

How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag
Hunter Jane Doe wants to transfer her DMP tag to another hunter.

Step 1: Jane Doe signs the bottom of her DMP tag.
Step 2: Jane Doe gives the DMP tag to Pete Moss.
Step 3: Pete Moss records the DOC# of the DMP tag on his reporting panel, completing the transfer.
Step 4: If Pete Moss takes an antlerless deer with the transferred DMP, he is required to report the deer by calling the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or by reporting online at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html using the transferred DMP DOC# and his/her reporting panel, as in Step 3 above, to complete the transfer.

Remember: Hunting licenses are not transferable. Only DMP carcass tags can be used by another hunter. A hunter must be in physical possession of a DMP when taking antlerless deer pursuant to a DMP. It cannot be "shared" by a group afield.
DMAP on State Lands

DEC has enrolled several state lands in DMAP. Tag availability is limited and hunters must apply to participate. See www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/121367.html for information. Properties include:
- Bully Hill State Forest, WMU 9P
- Doodletown Wildlife Management Area, WMU 4Z
- Valcour Island, WMU 5A

Eurasian Boar

Eurasian boars are a destructive invasive species that damage habitat and crops, and threaten native wildlife and domestic livestock. DEC and USDA have worked hard to eradicate these animals from the state’s landscape. We are now working to prevent their reintroduction into New York.

- It is illegal to possess, sell, distribute, trade or transport Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to import, breed or release Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to hunt, trap or take free-ranging Eurasian boar or their hybrids.

Although DEC’s eradication efforts have been very successful to date, we must remain vigilant. Anyone who sees a Eurasian boar should report it to DEC as soon as possible by emailing wildlife@dec.ny.gov or calling 518-402-8883.

Become a Hunter Education Program Instructor


“I volunteer my time to the Hunter Education Program because I get more out of it than I give. Those few hours give me a greater appreciation for all things conservation. The smiles of a child that can now go afield with purpose, men and women who will get to put fresh game on their tables, and a new group of people with a greater understanding of the wildlife and nature around them.”

Ann Wilcox-Swanson, Instructor

Qualifications
- At least 18 years of age
- Good communication skills
- Good moral character

APPLY TODAY! 1-888-HUNTED2  www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html
New York Field to Fork for Hunters of Color

By the National Deer Association

According to a national survey that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts every five years, the number of people who participate in hunting has been declining since the 1980s, even as the human population continues to rise. The same data show that of the approximately 11.5 million licensed hunters in the U.S., 90% are male and 97% are Caucasian.

There is a growing movement within the outdoor industry to diversify hunting so its participants more closely represent American demographics today.

Motivated by these disproportions, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), New York Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Hunters of Color, DEC, and the National Deer Association came together to host a “Field to Fork” mentored hunting event for aspiring hunters from the Black, Indigenous and People of Color community in November 2021. The event was hosted on TNC’s Hannacroix Preserve, roughly 30 minutes outside Albany. Participants ranged in age from 34-62 and were given the opportunity to take a New York Hunter Education class, learn about deer biology and behavior, gain experience shooting, go on multiple hunts with an experienced mentor by their side, and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie found in many New York deer camps each fall under a safe and welcoming environment.

“Without this event, I estimate that it would have taken me at least two years before I would be hunting on my own” said Avery Toledo, one of the participants. “When you are studying and reading, you have all these questions, but you don’t have someone to ask. I was able to ask those questions, get immediate feedback and not only that, after I leave here, we’re going to stay connected.”

Make sure to take a new hunter afield this upcoming season!

Top: Benita Law-Diao gains proficiency on the crossbow as Jimmy Flatt of Hunters of Color mentors.
Bottom: A group photo from the “Field to Fork” event. Photos courtesy National Deer Association
Pay it Forward: Reach out to a Non-traditional Hunter
By Kate Graham

I started hunting much older than most — late middle age! When I moved to a rural area in the Finger Lakes, hunting seemed to be a natural fit since I love being outdoors in all seasons and there are loads of deer in our area. I also liked the idea of knowing where my family’s meat came from. But no one in my family hunted and it was too intimidating to go to a gun club. But when I turned 55, although it seemed daunting, I decided it was time to find a way to learn to hunt. Thankfully, opportunities slowly fell into place to make it happen.

After completing the hunter safety course, I was able to participate in several of DEC’s Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) programs. BOW provided me with hands-on instruction about firearms and field dressing and cooking game, and meeting other like-minded women was very inspiring. But even with these experiences, I knew I was still a long way away from getting out into the field.

A year later, I signed up for the “Field to Fork” program run by the Greater Rochester Southern Tier Branch of the National Deer Association. To be a participant, you had to be new to hunting. For several months prior to the rifle season, our small group was in the classroom or on the gun range learning and preparing for the upcoming season. Once the season started, we were paired with a mentor. Moira Tidball, my mentor, guided me every step of the way and I was fortunate to harvest a 10-point buck during the first week of hunting. Being in the field was better than I imagined and I was hooked!

With the knowledge I gained with Field to Fork I now feel comfortable asking experienced hunters if I could continue my learning with them. I have spent many hours in tree stands over the past two seasons and was fortunate to harvest a second big buck.

I am very grateful to the many people who were so generous with their time and expertise to help me realize a long-sought goal. I hope my story is an inspiration to other non-traditional hunters that with perseverance and seeking every opportunity, it is possible to learn to hunt. I also hope it might encourage experienced hunters to reach out to a non-traditional beginner.

Junior Hunting — New legislation created a pilot program through 2023 for 12- and 13-year-old hunters to pursue deer with a firearm or crossbow in counties that passed a local law to participate; 52 of 54 eligible counties passed the required local law. The 9,859 licensed 12- and 13-year-old hunters in 2021 was about 33% more than in 2020. Approximately 87% hunted deer at some point during the season, and there were no safety incidents with this age group.

Daily Hunting Hours — To align with the national norm, DEC extended daily hunting hours for deer and bear to begin 30 minutes before sunrise and continue until 30 minutes after sunset. 2021 was the safest year on record for New York hunters, and none of the hunting-related shooting incidents occurred during the extended times.

September Antlerless Hunt — DEC established an antlerless-only deer season in mid-September using firearms, crossbows, and vertical bows in WMUs 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F, and using only vertical bows in WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J, and 8C because harvest of Deer Management Permits hadn’t been adequate in these units. We anticipate an increase in participation and management impact in coming years, but even during this first year hunters took about 2,000 deer.

Holiday Deer Hunt — The new expansion of the late bow and muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone from December 26–January 1 provided additional opportunity for hunters, particularly younger hunters who were on break from school. The objective was to provide opportunity, not substantially increase deer harvest, and that is what occurred. With the additional 7 days of hunting, harvest during the late bow and muzzleloader season increased about 10% from 2020. Young hunters reported taking more deer during the Holiday Deer Hunt than during the traditional portion of the late bow and muzzleloader season.
HUNTERS: Want Older Bucks in New York?

It’s Your Choice

You can increase the availability of older bucks by choosing to pass up shots at young bucks.
- Older bucks create more rubs and scrapes, vocalize more, and yield more meat—all things that create unforgettable hunting experiences.

You can boost deer condition and body and antler size by balancing the deer population with the habitat:
- Take a doe if permits are available in your area
- Create young forest to enhance natural forage and cover for deer

4 Rules of Firearm Safety

1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times!
2. Treat every firearm as though it is loaded!
3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond it!
4. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot!
Deer Hunting

Doe or Fawn?

During the fall, it can often be difficult to distinguish adult does and fawn deer, particularly if seen alone. In recent years, about 20% of the total antlerless deer harvest has been fawns (5–7 months old), with nearly even proportions of doe fawns and buck fawns. Though fawns provide excellent table fare, some hunters prefer to target adult deer. Taking adult female deer contributes to management objectives, and passing buck fawns may allow some of them to be available later as antlered bucks. By learning the differences between antlerless deer, hunters can make more informed harvest choices.

Hunting Tips

- Button bucks often travel alone, but adult does rarely do. Wait until several antlerless deer are present before making a harvest decision.
- It is easier to identify sex and age when animals are standing still or moving slowly.
- Harvest antlerless deer early in the season when differences between fawns and adult does are most noticeable.

Tree Stand Safety — Hunt Safe, Hunt Smart

- Read the manufacturer’s instructions. Replace worn/missing parts.
- Use a full-body harness with a foot strap to relieve harness leg pressure.
- Use a "lifeline" or safety rope that is secured at base of the tree or stand and to the tree just above your head when sitting in the stand. Stay connected to a lifeline from the time you leave the ground to the time you get back down.
- Attach the tether from your full-body harness to the lifeline using a carabiner and prusik knot, which easily slides up and down the lifeline.
- Once secured in your stand, use a haul line to raise/lower unloaded implements and quiver. Do not tie the haul line around the trigger or trigger guard. Haul unloaded guns, bows, and cocked (put unloaded) crossbows pointed down.
- Carry emergency equipment (knife, phone, flashlight, whistle) in your pockets at all times, not in your pack.
- Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return.
## Future Big Game Season Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>Northern Zone</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Southern Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adirondacks (WMUs 5A, 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5I, 6C, 6F, 6H, and 6J)</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>1st Saturday after the 2nd Monday in September through the Sunday immediately following the 1st Saturday in December.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Periphery (WMUs 6A, 6G, 6K, 6N)</td>
<td>Early Bowhunting</td>
<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 10 days of this season).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early Muzzleloading</td>
<td>7 consecutive days beginning on the 1st Saturday after Columbus Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>2nd Saturday after Columbus Day through the Sunday immediately following the 1st Saturday in December.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Early Bowhunting</td>
<td>September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 10 days of this season).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early Muzzleloading</td>
<td>7 consecutive days beginning on the 1st Saturday after Columbus Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Bow and Muzzleloading (some WMUs)</td>
<td>7 consecutive days immediately following the regular season.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>Early Firearms (some WMUs)</td>
<td>16 consecutive days beginning the first Saturday after Labor Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early Bowhunting</td>
<td>October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 14 days of this season).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Bow and Muzzleloading</td>
<td>23 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in November.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early Firearms (some WMUs)</td>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Early Bowhunting</td>
<td>9 consecutive days beginning the 2nd Saturday of September.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>23 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in November.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Bow and Muzzleloading</td>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season and December 26 through January 1.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer &amp; Bear</td>
<td>Youth (ages 12-15)</td>
<td>3 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday of Columbus Day Weekend.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer &amp; Bear</td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>October 1 through December 31.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td>October 1 through December 31.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Firearms Season</td>
<td>The first Sunday in January through Jan 31.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Bear Hunting**

- Resident and non-resident hunters can receive a bear carcass tag with their hunting license and may take one bear per year.
- In the Southern Zone, hunters may not shoot a cub or a bear that should be known to be a cub, shoot any bear from a group of bears, or shoot or take a bear from its den.
- Hunters may use and carry up to 1.5 fluid ounces of a liquid scent or lure, though such scent or lure may not be placed in a manner that it may be consumed as bait.
- Hunting bear with the aid of bait or dogs is prohibited.

**Bear age and weight data**

Hunters who harvest bears in New York are asked to submit a premolar tooth or part of the lower jaw of the bear for DEC to determine the bear’s age and to record the dressed weight of the bear (see www.dec.ny.gov/Outdoor/45598.html for more information). A collection packet including instructions and a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to each hunter that reports taking a bear. There are many cooperating taxidermists in New York who can extract the requested premolar teeth, weigh bears, and submit the data to DEC on your behalf, so check with your taxidermist. Generally, taxidermists do not use teeth or the lower jaw when preparing mounts or rugs. All successful hunters are still required to report their bear harvest online, via the mobile app, or via the automated phone system.

**Attention Bear Hunters and Taxidermists**

Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy of bear carcass tag) is attached. New York State law requires taxidermists to keep records of all bear gallbladders and bile received or sold.

---

**New York State Bear Management Cooperator Program**

The Bureau of Wildlife is requesting the assistance of successful black bear hunters in New York State.

Hunters who harvest a bear in New York are required to report their harvest through the DECALS telephone system at 1-866-426-3778 (1-866-GAMERPT), via the mobile app, or use the new online Harvest Reporting System at www.dec.ny.gov. Successful bear hunters will be sent a tooth collection packet with premolar removal and submission instructions. Hunters may be contacted by a DEC wildlife biologist to examine your bear and extract a premolar tooth for aging.

Report your bear and return a bear tooth to receive a commemorative 2022 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2023. Cooperating hunters will receive patches and letters indicating the age of their bear in early fall 2023.

---

**“Living with New York Black Bears”**

(Great Outdoors Multimedia 2007)

Take an inside look at the mysterious world of black bears and learn some secrets to sharing the landscape with bears. This video will explore the history of black bears, the challenges that face New York black bear biologists, and how landowners can responsibly and safely share their neighborhood with bears.

Available for viewing or loan from your local library or local DEC Regional Wildlife Office.