



“Hunting, besides being one of the oldest traditions in human history, is a great way to celebrate our freedom and prosperity in this beautiful country. It feeds families, brings people together, and plays a vital role in environmental conservation. I encourage everyone to get out there, stay safe, and take part in this cultural tradition in Upstate New York!!”

Robert Smullen

HUNTER ORANGE & PINK

BE LAWFUL AND STAY SAFE

Any person hunting deer or bear with a firearm or a person who is accompanying someone hunting deer or bear with a firearm **MUST** wear a minimum of 250 square inches of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material above the waist that is visible from all directions; OR a minimum of 250 square inches of patterned fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink (the pattern must be at least 50% fluorescent orange or 50% fluorescent pink) worn above the waist that is visible from all directions; OR a hat or cap with no less than 50% of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material visible from all directions.

All other hunters are not required by law to wear fluorescent orange while hunting in New York. However, DEC highly recommends ALL hunters wear a fluorescent orange hat, vest, and/or coat while hunting small game or big game.



WEARING HUNTER ORANGE SAVES LIVES

Hunter orange, also known as fluorescent orange or blaze orange, should be worn to make a hunter more visible and to prevent other hunters from mistaking them for an animal or shooting in their direction.

Hunters who wear hunter orange are seven times less likely to be shot.

Deer do not perceive bright orange or pink the same way humans do. The bright colors will not alert deer, but they will alert other hunters in the area of your presence in the woods.

NYS 2022

Deer & Bear Hunting

Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
Early Bowhunting	Sept. 27 - Oct. 24
Crossbow	Oct. 15 - Oct. 24
Regular	Oct. 25 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting (WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H only)	Dec. 8 - Dec. 14

Southern Zone	
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14
Crossbow (not in 4J or 8C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14
Regular	Nov. 15 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
Westchester County (3S)	
Regular - bowhunting only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
Suffolk County (1C)	
Regular - Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31
Special Firearms (Permit Req.)	Jan. 4 - Jan. 31
Early Antlerless Season	Sept. 13 - Sept. 21
Tags: DMP and DMAP Vertical Bow-Only: 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C Firearms, Bow, & Crossbow: 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F	

Youth Firearms Season Dates
Oct. 11 - 13
Area Open
All open areas, except bowhunting only WMUs
Eligible Hunters
- Youth 14-15 yrs
- Youths 12-13 yrs (select counties, see dec.ny.gov)
Bag Limit
One deer
Tags
Regular (either sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only); Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

Antler Point Restrictions
During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.
☐ Closed

Muzzleloading Deer

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24 Dec. 8 - Dec. 14
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24
<input type="checkbox"/> Antlered Deer Only	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24

Southern Zone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer of Either Sex	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antler Point Restrictions: during all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	



Crossbows may be used with respective firearms seasons to muzzleloading deer & bowhunting anytime in WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C, 9A, and 9F.

Tree Stand Safety Tips

Every year, hunters are seriously injured, paralyzed, or killed falling out of tree stands. Falls from tree stands have become a major cause of hunting-related injuries and fatalities in New York.

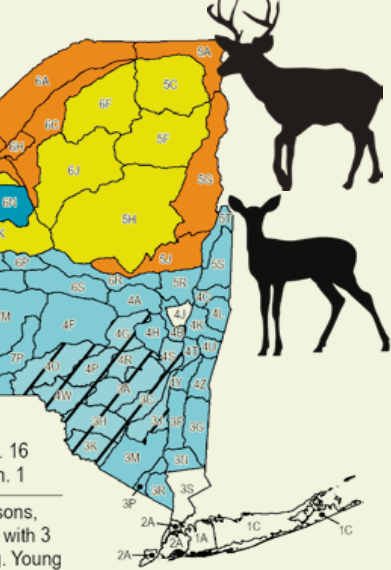
- Read the manufacturer’s instructions and warnings before you use your tree stand, and check your stands (including straps and chains) every season. Replace any worn or missing parts.
- Use a full-body harness with a lifeline and stay connected from the time you leave the ground to the time you get back down.
- Be aware of suspension trauma. Be sure the harness has a foot strap to relieve harness leg pressure.

- Use a “lifeline” or safety rope that is secured at the base of the tree or stand and to the tree just above your head when sitting in the stand. 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 keeping you connected at all times.
- Once you are safely in your stand and your tether is attached to the tree, raise your equipment into your stand. Always use a haul line, such as a strong rope, to raise and lower your unloaded gun, cocked crossbow or bow with a quiver up the stand. Do not tie the haul line around the trigger or trigger guard on a firearm. Raise a firearm with the muzzle pointing down.
- Let a reliable person know where you will be hunting and when you will return. A map showing your stand location makes it easier for others to find you if you do not return on time.
- Carry emergency equipment, such as a knife, cell phone, flashlight, and whistle in your pockets at all times (not in your pack hanging in the tree).

2025-2026 Hunting Seasons

Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset



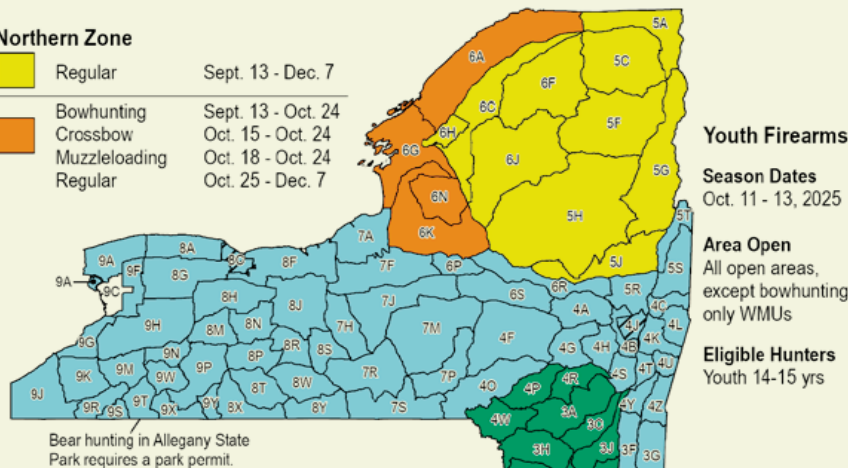
Black Bear Hunting

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset



Northern Zone

Regular	Sept. 13 - Dec. 7
Bowhunting	Sept. 13 - Oct. 24
Crossbow	Oct. 15 - Oct. 24
Muzzleloading	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24
Regular	Oct. 25 - Dec. 7



Youth Firearms

Season Dates
Oct. 11 - 13, 2025

Area Open
All open areas, except bowhunting only WMUs

Eligible Hunters
Youth 14-15 yrs

Southern Zone

Early Firearms	Sept. 6 - Sept. 21
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14
Crossbow (Not in WMUs 4J or 8C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14
Regular	Nov. 15 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16
Late Muzzleloading	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16
Westchester County (3S)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
Regular - bowhunting Only	

Bowhunting Only WMUs
Closed

Maps and information provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

THE 4 RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.

Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.


Keep your finger off the trigger, and outside the trigger guard, until you are ready to shoot.

Always be sure of your target and what is in front of it and behind it. Once you pull the trigger, you cannot take back the bullet!

New York State License Fees

Annual Hunting License	Resident	Non-resident
Ages 12-15	\$5	\$5
Ages 16-69	\$22	\$100
Ages 70+	\$5	\$100
Bowhunting Privilege	Resident	Non-resident
Ages 12-15	\$4	\$4
Ages 16-69	\$15	\$30
Ages 70+	No fee	\$30
Muzzleloading Privilege	Resident	Non-resident
Ages 14-69	\$15	\$30
Ages 70+	No fee	\$30
Turkey Permit	Resident	Non-resident
Ages 12+	\$10	\$20

Active military and some veterans may qualify for reduced fees.



Robert Smullen
Our Assemblyman

Lifetime License (Residents Only)	Cost	\$380 (Under 5), \$535 (Ages 5-11), \$765 (Ages 12-69), \$65 (Ages 70+)
	Hunting & Fishing	
	Hunting	\$535
	Bowhunting	\$235
	Trapping	\$395
	Muzzleloading	\$235
	Fresh Water Fishing	\$460 (Ages up to 69) \$65 (Ages 70+)



Robert Smullen
Our Assemblyman

New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

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Carrying on the Cultural Tradition of Upstate New York

A guide to the 2025-26 DEC hunting fees and regulations



MORE INSIDE!

Robert Smullen is a lifelong hunter who understands the importance of cultural tradition, as well as responsible conservation in our state. Stay up-to-date on hunting season start and due dates and safety tips, as well as general information on how to be a safe hunter this 2025-26 season!

Robert Smullen
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Our Assemblyman

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