

# 2025-2026 HUNTING SEASONS

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1-800-546-4868 or MDWFP.com

## 2025-2026 SMALL GAME HUNTING SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Youth Squirrel*	SEPT. 24 - 30	8
Squirrel - Fall Season	OCT. 1 - FEB. 28	
Squirrel - Spring Season	MAY 15 - JUNE 1	4
Rabbit	OCT. 18 - FEB. 28	8
Bobwhite Quail	NOV. 27 - MAR. 7	
Frog	APRIL 1 - SEPT. 30	25/night
Raccoon	JULY 1 - SEPT. 30	1 per party/night
Opossum, Raccoon, Bobcat	OCT. 1 - OCT. 31 (Food and Sport)	5/day; 8/party No Limit
	NOV. 1 - MAR. 15 (Food, sport, and pelt)	
Trapping	NOV. 1 - MAR. 15	No Limit

\* On private lands, authorized state and federal lands, and open public lands only in those areas open for squirrel hunting. \*Youth 15 and under.

## 2025-2026 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION
Sept. Canada Geese*	SEPT. 1 - 30	5	15
Mourning & White-winged Doves	SEPT. 1 - 30 OCT. 18 - NOV. 16 DEC. 27 - JAN. 25	15 singly or in aggregate	45 singly or in aggregate
Sept. Teal	SEPT. 20 - 28	6	18
Rails (Sora & Virginia)	SEPT. 1 - 30 NOV. 22 - DEC. 31	25 singly or in aggregate	75 singly or in aggregate
Rails (Clapper & King)	SEPT. 1 - 30 NOV. 22 - DEC. 31	15 singly or in aggregate 45 singly or in aggregate	
Gallinules (Common & Purple)	SEPT. 1 - 30 NOV. 22 - DEC. 31		
Crow	NOV. 1 - FEB. 28	No Limit	
Snipe	NOV. 14 - FEB. 28	8	24
Ducks, Mergansers, & Coots	NOV. 28 - NOV. 30 DEC. 6 - JAN. 31	See below for Duck, Mergansers, & Coot bag limits.	
Geese: Canada, Snow, Blue, Ross', White-fronted, & Brant	NOV. 14 - 30 DEC. 6 - JAN. 31	Canada Goose: 5	15
		Snow, Blue, Ross': 20	No Limit
		White-fronted: 3	9
		Brant: 1	3
Woodcock	DEC. 18 - JAN. 31	3	9
Youth, Veterans, Active Military Waterfowl	FEB. 7 - 8	Bag limits & shooting hours are same as regular season.	
Light Goose Conservation Order**	OCT. 1 - NOV 13 DEC. 1 - 5 FEB. 1 - 6 FEB. 9 - MAR. 31	No Limit**	

Shooting hours for all migratory game birds are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the Light Goose Conservation Order.

\* Sept. Canada Goose season is closed on Roebuck Lake in Leflore County.

\*\* See [mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/waterfowl-program](http://mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/waterfowl-program) for information regarding Light Goose Conservation Order.

### DAILY BAG LIMITS / POSSESSION LIMITS:

Possession Limit is three times the daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers, and coots.  
**Daily Limits:** Ducks - 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 mottled duck, 2 black ducks, and 3 pintails (for scaup is 1 scaup per day Nov. 28 - Nov. 30 and Dec. 6 - 17 ; and is 2 scaup per day Dec. 18 - Jan. 31). Mergansers - 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. Coots - 15.



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## 2025-2026 DEER HUNTING SEASONS

**BAG LIMITS:** The statewide bag limit on antlered buck deer is 1 buck per day and 3 per annual season. 1 of these 3 may have hardened antlers that do not meet the unit legal antler requirements on private land and Holly Springs National Forest. Only one antlered buck may be harvested during the September archery velvet season (counts toward the annual bag limit). For youth hunters 15 years of age and younger, hunting on private land and authorized state and federal lands, all 3 of the 3 buck bag limit may be any antlered deer. Antlered buck bag limit in the North Central Deer Management Unit (DMU) is 1 buck per day and 4 per annual season. No antler restrictions apply to this DMU. All four bucks may have any sized hardened antlers. **Private lands:** The statewide annual bag limit on antlerless deer is 5. The antlerless bag limit for private lands in the North Central DMU is 10 antlerless deer per season. Antlerless deer are male or female deer which do not have hardened antler above the natural hairline. Only 3 antlerless deer may be harvested from the Southeast Unit. There is no daily bag limit on antlerless deer in the North Central, Hills, and Delta units. Only 1 antlerless deer per day may be harvested in the Southeast DMU. **U.S. Forest Service National Forests:** The bag limit is 1 per day, not to exceed 5 per annual season except in the Southeast Unit, which is 3 per annual season.

**HILLS UNIT:** A legal buck has EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 13 inches. **DELTA UNIT:** A legal buck has EITHER a minimum inside spread of 12 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 15 inches. **NORTH CENTRAL:** A legal buck has hardened antler above the hairline.

METHOD	SEASON DATES	LEGAL DEER
Archery	SEPT. 12 - 14	Only 1 Legal Buck. Special permit, mandatory reporting, and CWD sampling required. Private Land and authorized state and federal lands.
	OCT. 1 - NOV. 21	Either sex on private and open public lands.
Youth gun (15 and under)	NOV. 8 - 21	Either-Sex on private lands, authorized state and federal lands, and open public lands.
	NOV. 22 - JAN. 31	Either-Sex on private lands. On open public lands, youth must follow legal buck criteria.
Antlerless Primitive Weapons	NOV. 10 - 21	<b>Antlerless Deer Only</b> on private lands.
Gun (with dogs)	NOV. 22 - DEC. 1	Either sex on private land and Holly Springs NF (excluding portions in Yalobusha County). Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapons	DEC. 2 - 15	Either sex on private and open public land. -a
Gun (without dogs)	DEC. 16 - 23	Either sex on private land and Holly Springs NF (excluding portions in Yalobusha County). Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	DEC. 24 - JAN. 21	
Archery/Primitive Weapon	JAN. 22 - 31	Either sex on private land and Holly Springs NF (excluding portions in Yalobusha County). Legal Bucks only on open public land. -a

**SOUTHEAST UNIT:** A legal buck has EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 13 inches.

METHOD	SEASON DATES	LEGAL DEER
Archery	SEPT. 12 - 14	Only one (1) Legal Buck. Special permit, mandatory reporting, and CWD sampling required. Private Land and authorized state and federal lands.
	OCT. 15 - NOV. 21	Either sex on private and open public land.
Youth gun (15 and under)	NOV. 8 - 21	Either sex on private lands, authorized state and federal lands, and open public lands.
	NOV. 22 - JAN. 31	Either sex on private lands. On open public lands, youth must follow legal deer criteria.
Gun (with dogs)	NOV. 22 - DEC. 1	Either sex on private land. Legal bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapons	DEC. 2 - 15	Either sex on private and open public land. -a
Gun (without dogs)	DEC. 16 - 23	Either sex on private land. Legal bucks only on open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	DEC. 24 - JAN. 21	
Archery/Primitive Weapon	JAN. 22 - 31	Either sex on private land. Legal bucks only on open public land. -a
	FEB. 1 - 15	Legal bucks only on private and open public land. -a

-a; Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.

Open Public Lands include U.S. National Forests, Corps of Engineer lands, etc., that have statewide seasons without special regulations. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are not considered Open Public Land. For seasons and bag limits on MDWFP WMAs, visit [mdwfp.com/wma](http://mdwfp.com/wma).

On private lands, a person, if required to have a hunting license, must have an **All Game/ Primitive Weapon License, Sportsman License, or a Lifetime License** to be able to hunt with WEAPON OF CHOICE during any open gun season on deer after Nov. 30.

## 2026 SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

SEASON	DATES	BAG LIMITS
Youth (Private, authorized state & federal public lands, and open public lands; age 15 & under)	MAR. 7 - 13	One (1) adult gobbler or 1 gobbler with a 6-inch or longer beard per day, 3 per Spring season. Hunters 15 years of age and younger may harvest 1 gobbler of choice (any age) per day, 3 per Spring season.
Spring*	MAR. 14 - MAY 1	

\* Non-residents Turkey Hunting on Public Lands: Non-residents cannot hunt any public land in Mississippi before April 1 unless drawn for either a **Non-resident Public Lands Turkey Permit** or **WMA Draw Hunt**. During youth season on public land, any non-resident accompanying adult must be permitted/drawn.



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