

Hunting and Trapping Season Dates for July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027

Bear Seasons

Mountain Bear Management Unit

In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, and Cleveland:
Oct. 3 – Nov. 21, 2026 and Dec. 12, 2026 – Jan. 1, 2027

Piedmont Bear Management Unit

Franklin, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Vance, Wake, and Warren:
Oct. 17, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027

Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union:
Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027

Alexander, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, and Yadkin:
Nov. 21, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027

Coastal Bear Management Unit

Zone 1: Dare, Hyde, and Tyrrell:
Nov. 14 - 29 and Dec. 12 - 27, 2026

Zone 2: Currituck, Gates, and Perquimans:
Nov. 14 - 22 and Dec. 12 - 27, 2026

Zone 2: Camden, Chowan, and Pasquotank:
Nov. 13 - 22 and Dec. 12 - 27, 2026

Zone 3: Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, and Washington:
Nov. 14 - 22 and Dec. 12 - 27, 2026

Zone 4: Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson:
Nov. 21 - Dec. 20, 2026

Zone 5: Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bears prohibited in this county), Pender, Robeson, and Sampson:
Nov. 9, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027

Wild Turkey Seasons

Statewide Spring Season (Male or Bearded Turkey Only): April 17 - May 15, 2027
Youth Season (Male or Bearded Turkey Only): April 10 - 11, 2027

Migratory Game Bird Seasons

See website at ncwildlife.gov/hunting/fishing-hunting-trapping-regulations

Small Game Seasons

Raccoon and Opossum: Oct. 12, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

Squirrel: Gray: Oct. 12, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027 & May 17 – 31, 2027

Red: Oct. 12, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

Fox Squirrel: Oct. 12, 2026 – Jan. 31, 2027

Rabbit: Oct. 12, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

Quail: Nov. 21, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

Grouse: Oct. 12, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

Bobcat: Oct. 12, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

Fox: See "Fox Season Hunting and Trapping Seasons" publication at ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons

Pheasant: Barrier Islands of Carteret, Dare, and Hyde Counties: Nov. 21, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027 (male pheasants only)
Remainder of State: Sept. 5, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027 (pheasants of either sex)

Crow: Aug. 1, 2026 - Feb. 27, 2027 & June 2, 2027 - July 31, 2027 Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of each week
Crows may also be hunted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Independence Day; except when these days fall on a Sunday.

Trapping Season

Statewide Trapping Season: Oct. 1, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

Deer Seasons

Zone	Counties	Method of Take	Antlered Season Dates	Antlerless Season Dates	Special Early Season
NORTHEASTERN	Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, Wilson	Archery	Sept. 12 - Oct. 2, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None
		Blackpowder	Oct. 3 - Oct. 16, 2026	Same as antlered blackpowder	
		Gun	Oct. 17, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Same as antlered gun	
SOUTHEASTERN	Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Washington	Archery	Sept. 12 - Oct. 2, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None
		Blackpowder	Oct. 3 - Oct. 16, 2026	Same as antlered blackpowder	
		Gun	Oct. 17, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Same as antlered gun	
SOUTHEASTERN CWD Management Area	Cumberland, Sampson	Archery	Sept. 12 - Oct. 2, 2026	Sept. 12 - Oct. 2, 2026	Aug. 22 - Aug. 23, 2026
		Blackpowder	Oct. 3 - Oct. 16, 2026	Oct. 3 - Oct. 16, 2026	
		Gun	Oct. 17, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Oct. 17, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	
CENTRAL	Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union	Archery	Sept. 12 - Oct. 30, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None
		Blackpowder	Oct. 31 - Nov. 13, 2026	Same as antlered blackpowder	
		Gun	Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Same as antlered gun	
NORTHWESTERN	Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Watauga	Archery	Sept. 12 - Nov. 6, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None
		Blackpowder	Nov. 7 - Nov. 20, 2026	Same as antlered blackpowder	
		Gun	Nov. 21, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Same as antlered gun	
NORTHWESTERN CWD Management Area	Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin	Archery	Sept. 12 - Oct. 30, 2026	Sept. 12 - Oct. 30, 2026	Aug. 22 - Aug. 23, 2026
		Blackpowder	Oct. 31 - Nov. 13, 2026	Oct. 31 - Nov. 13, 2026	
		Gun	Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Nov. 14, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	
WESTERN	Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Madison, Mitchell, Yancey	Archery	Sept. 12 - Nov. 13, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None
		Blackpowder	Nov. 14 - Nov. 27, 2026	Same as antlered blackpowder	
		Gun	Nov. 28, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Same as antlered gun	
	Buncombe*, Henderson*, McDowell	Archery	Sept. 12 - Nov. 13, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None
		Blackpowder	Nov. 14 - Nov. 27, 2026	Same as antlered blackpowder	
		Gun	Nov. 28, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Nov. 28 - Dec. 5, 2026*	
Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania	Archery	Sept. 12 - Nov. 13, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None	
	Blackpowder	Nov. 14 - Nov. 27, 2026	Nov. 21 - Nov. 27, 2026		
	Gun	Nov. 28, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	Nov. 28, 2026		
Graham	Archery	Sept. 12 - Nov. 13, 2026	Same as antlered archery	None	
	Blackpowder	Nov. 14 - Nov. 27, 2026	Nov. 21, 2026		
	Gun	Nov. 28, 2026 - Jan. 1, 2027	None		

*In that part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and that part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280, the antlerless deer season is all days of applicable weapons antlered season.

Some dates in this document are tentative. Final regulation details, including seasons dates for the crow season and some counties in the deer zones, will be in the 2026-27 Regulations Digest on August 1, 2026.