

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, Person, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Weldon, 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, Davie, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lenoir, Moore, 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 | 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 | Same as antlered gun | |
| Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania | Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania | 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 | |
| Graham | Graham | 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 | 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.