

# 2015-2016 Florida Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits

*Seasons, dates and bag limits do not apply to wildlife management areas.*

Species	Zone/ statewide	Season dates			Bag limits	
Deer (1)  Must have \$5 Deer Permit as well as hunting license to hunt deer.	Zone A	<b>Archery Season (A) (2)</b> <b>Aug. 1-30</b> Antlered deer entire season by bow only. <b>Antlerless deer:</b> DMU A1 – May only be taken by antlerless deer permit DMU A2 – Aug. 1-9 DMU A3 – Aug. 1-16 by bow only	<b>Crossbow Season (C) (2)</b> <b>Aug. 1 – Sept. 4</b> Antlered deer entire season by crossbow or bow only. <b>Antlerless deer:</b> DMU A1 – May only be taken by antlerless deer permit DMU A2 – Aug. 1-9 DMU A3 – Aug. 1-16 by crossbow or bow only	<b>Muzzleloading Gun Season(M)</b> <b>Sept. 5-18</b> Antlered deer only by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow	<b>General Gun Season (D)</b> <b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 18 and Nov. 21 – Jan. 3</b> Antlered deer entire season by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows. <b>For antlerless deer season dates, see Deer Management Unit pages for Zone A.</b>	During <b>Archery Season and first phase of Crossbow Season</b> , daily bag limit is: 2 deer, either of which can be antlered or antlerless. However, antlerless deer may only be taken by antlerless deer permit in DMU A1.  During <b>Antlerless Deer Season</b> , daily bag limit is: 2 deer, only 1 of which may be antlerless. However, there is no antlerless deer season in DMU A1.  During <b>all other seasons (including second phase of Crossbow Season)</b> , daily bag limit is 2 antlered deer, and antlerless deer may be taken by antlerless deer permit only.  Possession limit: 4 deer
	Zone B	<b>Oct. 17 – Nov. 15</b> Antlered or antlerless deer by bow only	<b>Oct. 17 – Nov. 15</b> Antlered or antlerless deer by crossbow or bow only <b>Nov. 16-20</b> Antlered deer only by crossbow or bow	<b>Nov. 21 – Dec. 4</b> Antlered deer only by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow	<b>Dec. 5 – Feb. 21</b> Antlered deer entire season by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows. <b>For antlerless deer season dates, see Deer Management Unit pages for Zone B.</b>	
	Zone C	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 18</b> Antlered or antlerless deer by bow only	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 18</b> Antlered or antlerless deer by crossbow or bow only <b>Oct. 19-23</b> Antlered deer only by crossbow or bow	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 6</b> Antlered deer by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow.  In DMU C5, antlerless deer also may be taken Oct. 24-25 during antlerless deer season.	<b>Nov. 7 – Jan. 24</b> Antlered deer entire season by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows. <b>For antlerless deer season dates, see Deer Management Unit pages for Zone C.</b>	
	Zone D	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 25</b> Antlered or antlerless deer by bow only	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 25</b> Antlered or antlerless deer by crossbow or bow only <b>Nov. 30 – Dec. 4</b> Antlered deer only by crossbow or bow	<b>Dec. 5-11 and Feb. 22-28</b> Antlered deer by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow. In DMU D2, antlerless deer also may be taken Dec. 5-6 during antlerless deer season.	<b>Nov. 26-29 and Dec. 12 – Feb. 21</b> Antlered deer entire season by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows. <b>For antlerless deer season dates, see Deer Management Unit pages for Zone D.</b>	
Fall turkey (gobblers and bearded only) (T)	Zone A	<b>Aug. 1-30</b> by bow only	<b>Aug. 1 – Sept. 4</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Sept. 5-18</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only	<b>Fall Turkey Season</b> <b>Oct. 5-18 and Nov. 21 – Jan. 3</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols  <b>Dec. 5 – Jan. 31</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols  <b>Nov. 7 – Jan. 3</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols  <b>Nov. 26-29 and Dec. 12 – Jan. 17</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	
	Zone B	<b>Oct. 17 – Nov. 15</b> by bow only	<b>Oct. 17 – Nov. 20</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Nov. 21 – Dec. 4</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only		
	Zone C	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 18</b> by bow only	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 23</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 6</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only		
	Zone D (3)	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 25</b> by bow only	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 25</b> <b>Nov. 30 – Dec. 4</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Dec. 5-11</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only		

<b>Gray squirrel (D)</b>	Zone A	<b>Aug. 1-30</b> by bow only	<b>Aug. 1 – Sept. 4</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Sept. 5-18</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only	<b>Oct. 10 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	Daily bag limit: 12  Possession limit: 24
	Zone B	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 18</b> by bow only	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 9</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Sept. 5-18</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only	<b>Oct. 10 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	
	Zone C				<b>Oct. 10 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	
	Zone D				<b>Oct. 10 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	
<b>Quail (D)</b>	Zone A	<b>Aug. 1-30</b> by bow only	<b>Aug. 1 – Sept. 4</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Sept. 5-18</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only	<b>Nov. 14 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	Daily bag limit: 12  Possession limit: 24
	Zone B	<b>Oct. 17 – Nov. 13</b> by bow only	<b>Oct. 17 – Nov. 13</b> by crossbow or bow only		<b>Nov. 14 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	
	Zone C	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 9</b> by bow only	<b>Sept. 19 – Oct. 23</b> by crossbow or bow only	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 6</b> by muzzleloader, crossbow or bow only	<b>Nov. 14 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	
	Zone D	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 13</b> by bow only	<b>Oct. 24 – Nov. 13</b> by crossbow or bow only		<b>Nov. 14 – March 6</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	
<b>Bear (6)</b>  Must have special-use bear permit as well as hunting license to hunt bears.	East Panhandle BMU	Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla and Washington counties			<b>Bear Season (B)</b>  <b>Oct. 24-30</b> by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows <b>Oct. 24-30</b> by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows <b>Oct. 24-30</b> by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows <b>Oct. 24-30</b> by all legal centerfire rifles and pistols, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows and bows	Daily bag, season and possession limit: 1
	North BMU	Baker, Columbia, Duval, Hamilton, Nassau, Suwannee and Union counties				
	Central BMU	Alachua, Bradford, Brevard, Clay, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter and Volusia counties				
	South BMU	Broward, Collier, Hendry, Lee, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach counties				
<b>Spring turkey (gobblers and bearded only) (4)</b>	South of State Road 70	<b>Youth Spring Turkey Hunt (5)</b> <b>Feb. 27-28</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	<b>Spring Turkey Season (T)</b> <b>March 5 – April 10</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols			Daily bag limit: 2
	North of State Road 70 except Holmes County	<b>March 12-13</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	<b>March 19 – April 24</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols			Season and possession limit: 2 for spring season

	Holmes County	<b>March 12-13</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	<b>March 19 – April 3</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	Daily bag and season limit: 1
<b>Rabbit</b>	Statewide	<b>Year round</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols (D)		Daily bag limit: 12 Possession limit: 24
<b>Wild hog</b>	Statewide	<b>Year round</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols. Hunting license not required. Wild hogs also may be trapped but cannot be transported alive without permit from the Florida Dept. of Agriculture at 850-410-0900. (D)		No limit
<b>Bobcat (D)(F)</b>	Statewide	<b>Dec. 1 – March 31</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	Those with a hunting license may possess no more than 1 bobcat pelt between April 1 and Nov. 30, unless pelt has CITES tag. Also, bobcat pelts may not be taken out of Florida unless tagged. Bobcats may be chased with dogs year round.	No limit
<b>Otter (F)</b>	Statewide	<b>Dec. 1 – March 1</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols	Those with a hunting license may possess no more than 1 otter pelt between April 1 and Nov. 30, unless pelt has CITES tag. Also, otter pelts may not be taken out of Florida unless tagged.	No limit
<b>Raccoon, opossum, coyote, beaver, skunk, nutria</b>	Statewide	<b>Year round</b> by all legal rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, crossbows, bows and pistols (D)(F)	Hunting raccoons or opossums at night is allowed, but only .22-caliber rimfire firearms (other than .22-magnums) or single-shot .410-gauge shotguns (using shot not larger than size 6) may be used. Hunting raccoons or opossums by displaying or using lights from moving vehicles, vessels or animals is prohibited. It is illegal to transport wild-trapped live raccoons within, into or from the state, except by FWC permit or authorization.	No limits on any species
<b>Deer-dog training</b>	Zone A	<b>Aug. 15 – Sept. 3</b>	Those with a hunting license may train or toughen free-running deer dogs on private property during daylight hours, after first registering (at no cost) the tract of land with the FWC. While training, all deer dogs must have their FWC-issued registration number, along with the owner's name and address on their collars. Copies of the registration must be in the hunter's possession when training deer dogs.	
	Zone B	<b>Oct. 31 – Nov. 19</b>		
	Zone C	<b>Oct. 3-22</b>		
	Zone D	<b>Oct. 31 – Nov. 19</b>		

- (A) Must have \$5 Archery Season Permit as well as hunting license. It is prohibited to use bows equipped with sights or aiming devices with electronic computational capabilities or light (laser) projection during Archery Season.
- (C) Must have \$5 Crossbow Season Permit as well as hunting license.
- (M) Must have \$5 Muzzleloading Gun Season Permit as well as hunting license. The only muzzleloaders that can be used during Muzzleloading Gun Season are those that are fired by wheel lock, flintlock, percussion cap or centerfire primer (including 209 primers). Muzzleloaders that can be loaded from the breech are not legal during Muzzleloading Gun Season.
- (D) Free-running dogs may be used for hunting but must wear collars listing the owner's name and address. When using dogs to hunt deer on private property, hunters must first register with the FWC (at no cost) the tract of land they have permission to hunt, and all deer dogs must have their FWC-issued registration number on their collars. Copies of the registration also must be in hunter's possession when using dogs to pursue deer.
- (B) Bear season will last between 2 and 7 days in each of the BMUs that are open to bear hunting. The season begins Oct. 24, and permitted hunters are guaranteed the opportunity to hunt the first 2 days. However, starting Oct. 25, hunters must call 844-FWC-BEAR or check MyFWC.com/Hunting each day after 9 p.m. Eastern Time to determine if a BMU they plan to hunt is open or closed for bear hunting.
- (T) Must have Turkey Permit (\$10 for residents, \$125 for nonresidents) as well as hunting license to hunt turkeys.
- (F) A trapping license (\$26.50) is required when trapping furbearers and when selling the pelts or meat of furbearing mammals, whether taken by trap, snare or gun. For trapping regulations and CITES tag requirements, see page 26.

- (1) The state has been divided into 12 Deer Management Units (DMUs); each with their own unique set of antler regulations on what is legal to take. See *Deer Management Unit pages* for new antler regulations and changes to the antlerless deer seasons in the areas you hunt.
- (2) **Antlerless deer** – Deer (except spotted fawns) that do not have antlers or have antlers less than 5 inches in length. It is illegal to take spotted fawns.
- (3) In Holmes County, there is no fall harvest of turkeys allowed.
- (4) When hunting wild turkeys during the spring season on wildlife management areas, only shotguns and muzzleloading shotguns using shot no larger in diameter than No. 2 may be used. Bows and crossbows, where allowed, also may be used. All rifles, pistols, buckshot and slugs are prohibited. This rule does not apply on private lands.
- (5) Only youth 15-years-old and younger are allowed to harvest a turkey while supervised by an adult, 18 years or older. However, adult supervisors with a hunting license and turkey permit are allowed to “call in” the turkey and otherwise participate in the hunt, but they are not permitted to harvest one. Any turkey harvested during the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt counts toward the youth hunter’s spring season limit of 2.
- (6) The state has been divided into 7 Bear Management Units (BMUs) and 4 of them are open to bear hunting. Hunters may take bears of either sex, but they must weigh at least 100 pounds live weight and cannot be with any cub bear (a cub bear is defined as a bear that is less than 100 pounds). All harvested bears must be checked and tagged at an FWC bear check station within 12 hours of recovering the bear.