



“Hunting, besides being one of the oldest jobs in human history, is a great way to celebrate our freedom and prosperity in this beautiful country. It is a great time for anyone to get out there, stay safe, and enjoy themselves!”

Robert Smullen

HUNTER ORANGE & PINK

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 and 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 and 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 prevent other hunters from mistaking them for an animal or shooting in their direction.

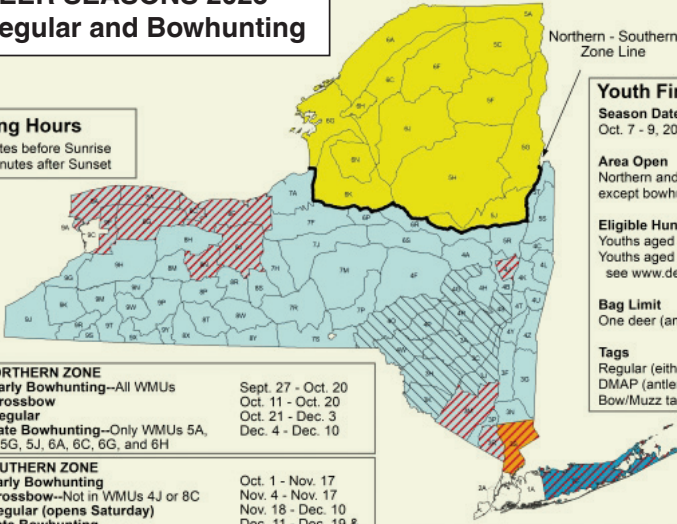
Hunters who wear hunter orange are seven times less likely to be shot.

NYS 2023 Deer & Bear Hunting

DEER SEASONS 2023 Regular and Bowhunting

Hunting Hours

30 minutes before Sunrise
to 30 minutes after Sunset



NORTHERN ZONE	
Early Bowhunting--All WMUs	Sept. 27 - Oct. 20
Crossbow	Oct. 11 - Oct. 20
Regular	Oct. 21 - Dec. 3
Late Bowhunting--Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H	Dec. 4 - Dec. 10
SOUTHERN ZONE	
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 17
Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C	Nov. 4 - Nov. 17
Regular (opens Saturday)	Nov. 18 - Dec. 10
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 11 - Dec. 19 & Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S)	
Regular--Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C)	
Regular--Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024
Special Firearms-(Permit Req.)	Jan. 7 - Jan. 31, 2024
Antler Point Restrictions	
During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.	
No Deer Hunting	

Youth Firearms Season

Season Dates
Oct. 7 - 9, 2023

Area Open
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting-only WMUs

Eligible Hunters
Youths aged 14-15 years (all open areas)
Youths aged 12-13 years (select counties, see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html)

Bag Limit
One deer (antlered or antlerless)

Tags
Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only);
Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

Early Antlerless Season Sept. 9 - 17

Tags: DMP and DMAP
Vertical Bow-Only: 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C
Firearms, Bow, & Crossbow: 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F

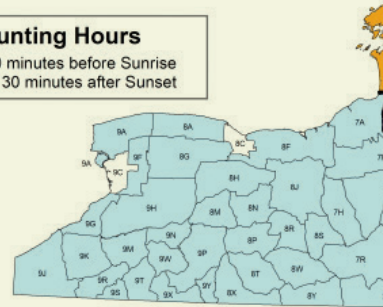
Crossbows

May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.
May not be used to hunt deer:
- during the Youth Firearms Season; or
- anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

DEER SEASONS 2023 Muzzleloading

Hunting Hours

30 minutes before Sunrise
to 30 minutes after Sunset



Northern Zone

Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 14 - Oct. 20 Dec. 4 - Dec. 10
Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
Antlered Deer Only	Oct. 14 - Oct. 20

Southern Zone

Deer of Either Sex	Dec. 11 - Dec. 19 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Antler Point Restrictions

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

No Muzzleloading Season

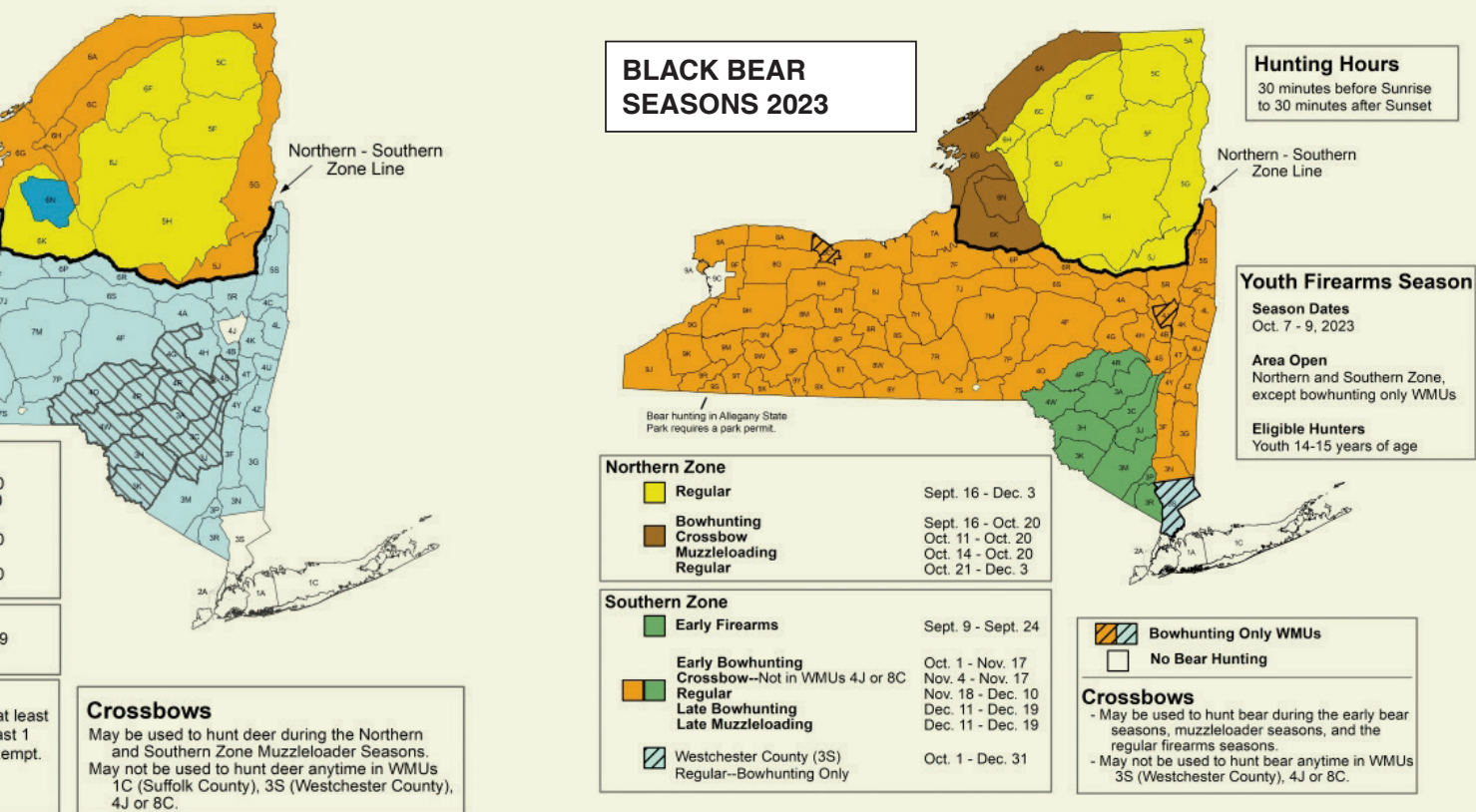
Maps and information provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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 or 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).**

2023-2024 Hunting Seasons



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!

Our Assemblyman
Robert Smullen



Active military and some veterans may qualify for reduced fees.

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

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

New York State License Fees



Robert Smullen
 Our Assemblyman

New York State Assembly
 Albany, NY 12248

PRSRT STD.
 US Postage
PAID
 Albany, NY
 Permit No. 75

Carrying on the Cultural Tradition of Upstate New York

A guide for the 2023-24 DEC hunting fees and regulations

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 end dates and safety tips, as well as general information on how to be a safe hunter this 2023-24 season!

Our Assemblyman
Robert Smullen

