

# STAYING SAFE - TIPS FOR SAFE HUNTING

## 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!

## HUNTER ORANGE AND 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 worn 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.**

## HUNTING FROM TREE STANDS

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.

## TREE STAND SAFETY TIPS

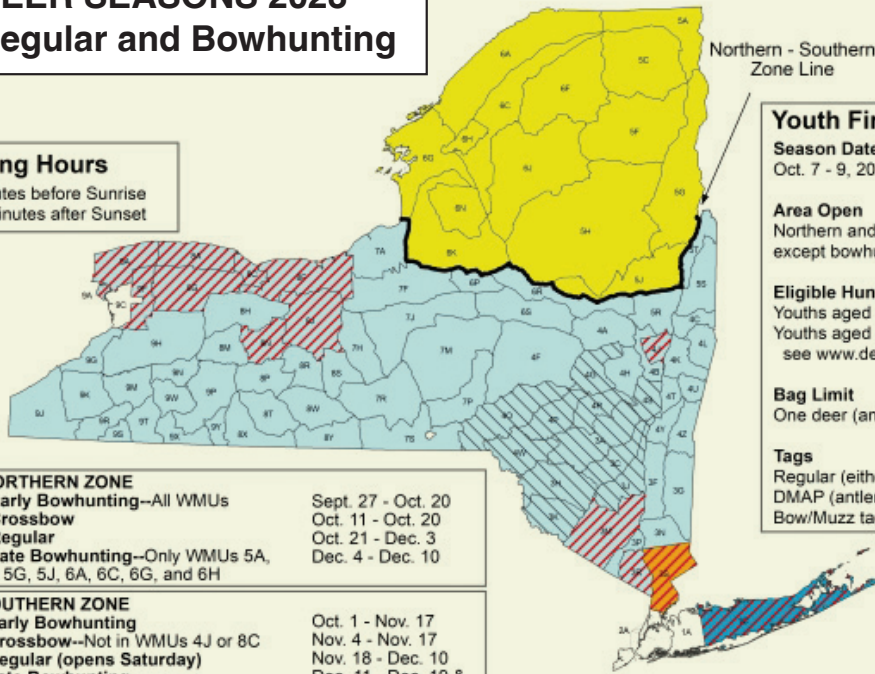
- Read the manufacturer's instructions and warnings before you use your tree stand and check your stands (including straps and chains) every season. Replace any worn or missing parts.
- Use a full-body harness with a lifeline and stay connected from the time you leave the ground to the time you get back 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).



# DEER & BEAR HUNTING

## DEER SEASONS 2023 Regular and Bowhunting

**Hunting Hours**  
30 minutes before Sunrise  
to 30 minutes after Sunset



**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](http://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

**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.

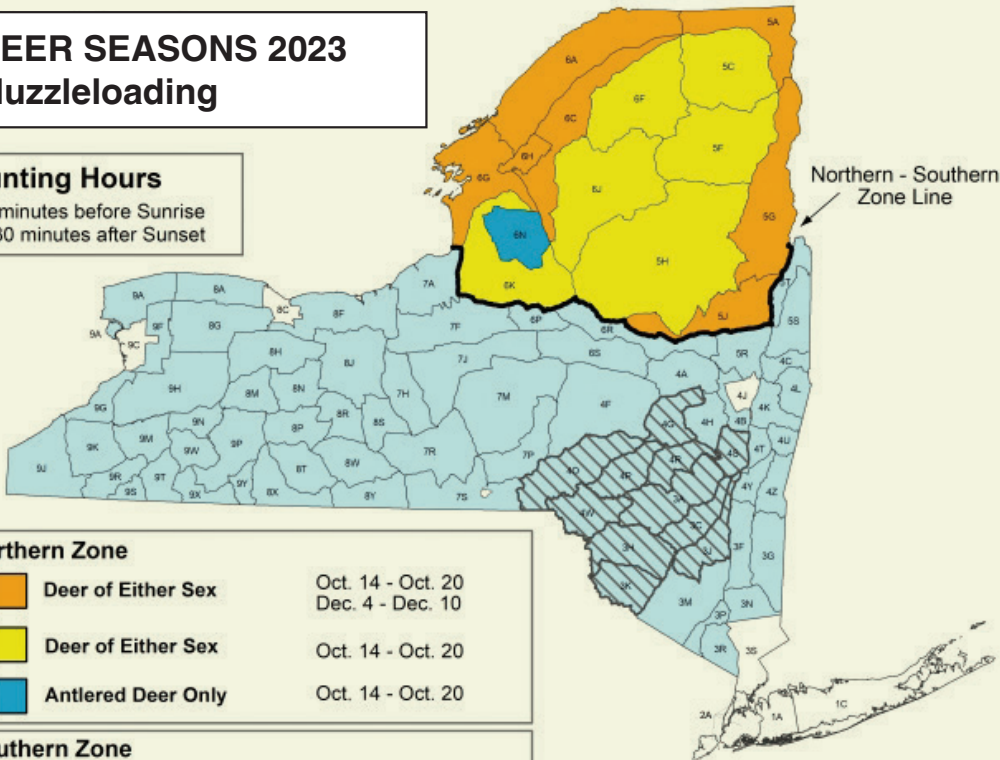
**No Deer Hunting**

**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**

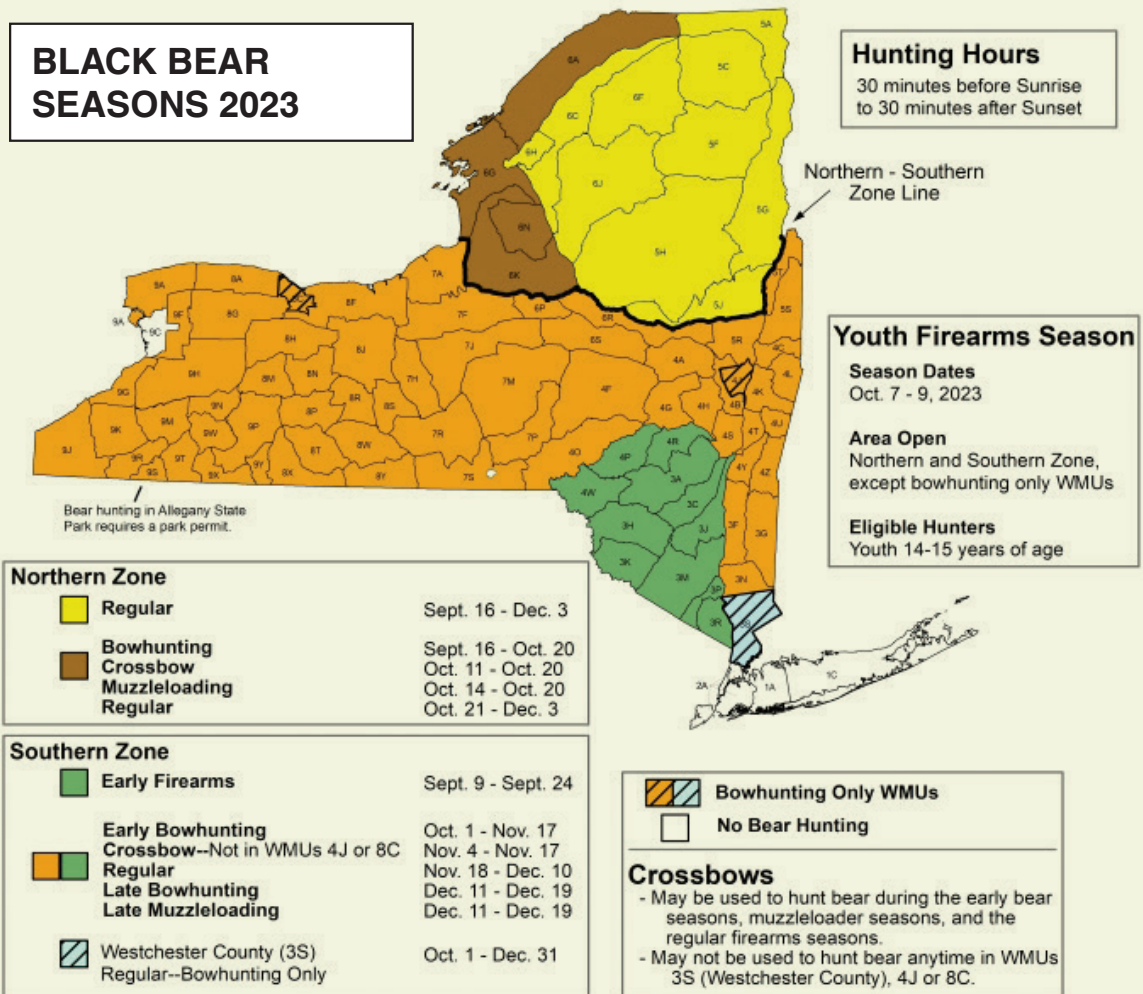
**Deer of Either Sex** Dec. 11 - Dec. 19  
Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

**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**

**Crossbows**  
May be used to hunt deer during the Northern  
and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons.  
May not be used to hunt deer anytime in WMUs  
1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County),  
4J or 8C.

# HUNTING SEASONS 2023-24



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

## New York State License Fees

Annual Hunting License	Resident	Non-resident	Lifetime License (Residents Only)	Cost
Ages 12-15	\$5	\$5	Hunting & Fishing	\$380 (Under 5), \$535 (Ages 5-11), \$765 (Ages 12-69), \$65 (Ages 70+)
Ages 16-69	\$22	\$100		
Ages 70+	\$5	\$100		
Bowhunting Privilege	Resident	Non-resident	Hunting	\$535
Ages 12-15	\$4	\$4	Bowhunting	\$235
Ages 16-69	\$15	\$30	Trapping	\$395
Ages 70+	No fee	\$30	Muzzleloading	\$235
Muzzleloading Privilege	Resident	Non-resident	Fresh Water Fishing	\$460 (Ages up to 69) \$65 (Ages 70+)
Ages 14-69	\$15	\$30		
Ages 70+	No fee	\$30		
Turkey Permit	Resident	Non-resident		
Ages 12+	\$10	\$20		

Active military and some veterans may qualify for reduced fees.



“Understanding the rules and regulations of conservation and firearm safety is essential for responsible hunters.”

Jeff★  
Gallahan  
STATE ASSEMBLYMAN

**JEFF GALLAHAN SUPPORTS ETHICAL HUNTING: BE RESPONSIBLE AND STAY SAFE**

Jeff★  
Gallahan  
STATE ASSEMBLYMAN

New York State Assembly  
Albany, NY 12248

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

**MORE INSIDE!**

Jeff Gallahan is a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman. Inside, you will find safety tips and hunting season start and end dates as well as general information on how to be a responsible hunter this 2023-24 season!

STATE ASSEMBLYMAN  
Jeff★  
Gallahan

My grandson Barrett on a hunting trip.