Coyote

Seasons for Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, Canada Geese, Light Geese, Sept. 1 - Nov. 26 and 15 firearms deer season

Starling & English Sparrows

Crow

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Table can be found on the Game Commission’s website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest. Applications for Goose Blinds and Other Special Hunts will be available on the Game Commission’s website.

Furtaking with appropriate license

Hunting

Review the complete Digest online: http://bit.ly/PGCDigest

Furtaking with appropriate license

Review the complete Digest: http://bit.ly/PGCDigest

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Turkey with general license/permits

One antlered deer with required antlerless license.

Archery

Demonstrates

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D

Sept. 18 - Nov. 26, including Sundays Nov. 14 and Nov. 21

Dec. 27 - Jan. 9, 2022

Statewide

Oct. 2 - Sun. Nov. 14 and Nov. 19

Dec. 27 - Jan. 17, 2022

Muzzleloader (Antlerless only)

Oct. 16 - Oct. 23

Statewide with required muzzleloading license

Special Firearms (Antlerless only)

Oct. 21 - Oct. 23

Statewide: participation is restricted, check Digest for eligibility

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D

Dec. 27 - Jan. 29, 2022

Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only)

Dec. 27 - Jan. 29, 2022

Archery

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D

Sept. 18 - Nov. 26, including Sundays Nov. 14 and Nov. 21

Dec. 27 - Jan. 9, 2022

Statewide

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Report Violations

Call 1-888-PGC-8001 to Calls to Operation Game Thief are always answered by a secure recording device.


Be a conservation hero!

• Describe WHAT YOU SAW and the SPECIES involved
• DATE and TIME of occurrence
• LOCATION: county, township, address, crossroads
• PEOPLE: height, weight, hair/color, age, tattoos or other distinguishing features, clothing, sporting arm
• VEHICLE: color, make, model, decals or stickers; license number and state; road/route; direction of travel
• You can remain anonymous. Your name and phone number are required to claim any monetary reward.

Report Harvest

Report Deer, Turkey, Fish, Bobcat, and Snow Goose harvests

Please have your Customer Identification Number (hunting license number), date of birth, and Field harvest tag/permit hand.

2. Report by PHONE: Available for turkey and deer only. Call toll-free to 1-855-724-8681 or 1-888-PHANTAIL.
3. Report by MAIL: Available for turkey and deer only. Use tear-off card in your Digest. No postage necessary if mailed in the U.S.
4. Report bear, elk and oter per directions on the license or permit.
Chronic Wasting Disease

If you plan to hunt in a Disease Management Area (DMA) or the CWD Established Area (EA) this season, there are specific rules to follow. Pennsylvania has three Disease Management Areas and one Established Area. All are geographic regions where CWD has been found in deer. Special rules apply in each, including bans on feeding deer, the use and possession of cervid urine-based attractants, and export of high-risk parts, all designed to limit the human-assisted spread of CWD. Maps showing DMA boundaries for 2021-22 are available in this digest. For the most up-to-date maps, visit the Game Commission’s website at www.pgc.pa.gov/CWD.

The Game Commission encourages hunters within DMAs to get their harvest tested, and puts head collection containers at various places throughout the DMAs and the EA. Their exact locations are listed at www.pgc.pa.gov/CWD.

Hunters can drop their deer’s head, double-bagged, in a bin with the harvest tagged filled out and firmly attached to the ear and get it tested for CWD for free. Hunters can check their test results by calling the CWD hotline (1-833-CWDINFO) or by using the Game Commission’s CWD Test Results page at www.pgc.pa.gov/CWD.

General Regulations

Rating: It is unlawful to hunt in or around any area where artificial or natural bait has been used within the past 30 days. Regular baiting of deer is allowed in the Southeast Special Regulations Area outside of any Disease Management Area (DMA). See Digest for details.

Mistake Kill: Any person who kills any wildlife while hunting or trapping by accident or mistake shall immediately field-dress any edible game and deliver the carcass to a state game warden in the county where it was killed.

Road Hunting: It is unlawful to (1) hunt from a vehicle; (2) aid or assist another while hunting from a vehicle; (3) shoot at wildlife on a public road or right-of-way open to public travel; (4) shoot across a road unless the line of fire is high enough to preclude any danger to road users; and (5) shoot from a vehicle and shoot at any animal until the shooter is at least 25 yards from the traveled portion of the road.

Safety Zones: It is unlawful to hunt, shoot at, trap, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or play-ground without the permission of the occupants. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards.

Spotlighting Wildlife: It is unlawful to spotlight wildlife after 11 p.m., during regular firearms or late extended Special Regulations Area firearms deer seasons, or while in possession of a device capable of killing wildlife.

Tagging Big Game: Hunters harvesting big game must follow instructions printed on the harvest tags supplied with licenses. Big game must be tagged immediately after harvest and before carcass is moved. The tag must be attached to the ear of a deer or bear, or the body of an elk and must remain attached until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting. Turkey tags must be attached to the bird’s leg.

Duck Carry: Carrying firearms generally is prohibited while bowhunting. However, archery deer hunters may carry muzzleloaders to hunt during times when the archery and muzzleloader deer seasons overlap. Archery deer hunters can carry muzzleloaders when an archery deer season overlaps with a muzzleloader bear season and when archery bear season in overlaps with a muzzleloader deer or bear season.

State Game Lands

On state game lands, it is lawful to hunt, trap and fish, as well as pick berries or mushrooms.

Hunting blinds or stands may be provided by users who do not cause damage to trees, and are not placed out earlier than two weeks prior to deer season, and must be removed no later than 2 weeks after the close of deer season. Portable hunting blinds or stands must be marked with a durable identification tag that legibly sets forth in the owner’s first name, last name and legal home address or must bear a number issued by the Commission for this purpose.

State game lands are Set aside for hunting and trapping and the preservation and maintenance of wildlife habitat. While on a game land, it is unlawful to:

- Start a fire, except that small open fires for cooking or warming purposes are only permitted for those hunting, fishing, and through hikers within the corridor of the Appalachian Trail.
- Ride a nonmotorized vehicle, conveyance or animal, except on roads normally open to public travel, or designated routes as posted, or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Possess an alcoholic beverage.
- Feed wildlife or place any food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt or other minerals.
- Use state game lands for any personal, organizational or commercial purpose other than the intended use.
- Engage in dog training activities on small game from the Monday prior to the start of the general season to one hour after the regular season.
- Be present on state game lands from November 15 through December 15 inclusive when not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping and fail to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of daytime fluorescent orange-colored material on the head, chest and back combined or, in lieu thereof, a hat of the same colored material. The material shall be worn so it is visible in a 360° arc. Persons using shooting ranges are exempted from this requirement.

Sunday Hunting

Hunting is permitted for foxes, coyotes and crows during open seasons. Additional Sunday hunting opportunities for 2021 are Nov. 14, Nov. 21 and Nov. 28. Aside from these exceptions, Sunday hunting is unlawful in Pennsylvania.

Elk

When fluorescent orange is required, the requirement for that season must be worn while moving from one hour prior to the start of legal hunting hours and for one hour past the closing of legal hunting hours.

* Fluorescent orange is required when hunting big-game during any big game season, if orange is required during that season, including from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Baiting & Enclosed Tree Stands

A minimum of 25 square inches of fluorescent orange material (orange alert band) must be displayed within 15 feet of a blind or enclosed tree stand and visible 360 degrees during the firearms deer and elk seasons. This is in addition to wearing orange while in the blind. See turkey section of the Digest for specifics on blind use while turkey hunting.

Wearing Orange

No fluorescent orange is required whilearchery hunting for deer, bear or elk, or when hunting waterfowl, doves, turkeys, crows or fur-bearing.

Hunters participating in the after-Christmas flintlock muzzleloader season also are not required to wear fluorescent orange (See Special Regulations Areas section of Digest for additional information).

Even when fluorescent orange isn’t required, the Game Commission highly recommends its use. For example, a fluorescent orange hat is recommended for turkey hunters while moving.

State Game Lands

Hunting is permitted for bear, deer (archery in WMUs 2B, 2C and 5D only), squirrel, rhesus, rabbit, grous, bobwhite quail, woodchuck, crow, raven, fox, coyote, opossum, striped skunk, weasel and porcupine.

Coyote hunters during any big-game season must follow big-game orange requirements. Crows may not be hunted during the regular turkey seasons.

Turkeys and migratory game birds may not be hunted on any Sunday. On these three Sundays, hunters on private land must carry written permission from the landowner. Permission should include the landowner’s signature, address and phone number as well as the hunter’s name, address and CID license number.

Legal Hunting Hours

Legal hunting hours for all small and big game are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Please consult the Digest for tables of lawful hunting hours, including migratory game birds, and the accompanying Pennsylvania Meridian Map.

Elk

Hunting is permitted for bear, deer (archery in WMUs 2B, 2C and 5D only), squirrel, rhesus, rabbit, grous, bobwhite quail, woodchuck, crow, raven, fox, coyote, opossum, striped skunk, weasel and porcupine.

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Fluorescent Orange

A hat made of solid fluorescent orange, visible 360 degrees. Worn at all times.

Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) Sept. 11 - Sept. 25

Regular (Antlered and Antlerless) Nov. 1 - Nov. 6

Late (Antlered and Antlerless) Jan. 1 - Jan. 8, 2022