

2026 Deer Hunting Bag Limit and Permit Needs – Regular Archery/Crossbow Season

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW)

Season Dates:

- October 3 – 30, 2026

Key Notes:

- Hunting with a crossbow is included in the Archery Hunting License.
- You may not exceed the annual white-tailed deer bag limit.
- All deer harvested during expanded archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons count toward the same annual bag limit

Bag Limit and Permit Scenarios:

1. One Antlered OR One Antlerless Deer (Statewide)
 - Bag Limit: One antlered deer OR one antlerless deer
 - Required: Archery Hunting License
2. One Antlered + One Antlerless Deer (Statewide + Designated Area)
 - Bag Limit: One antlered deer (statewide) AND one antlerless deer (in a permit-designated WMD/subunit)
 - Required: Archery Hunting License AND 1 Antlerless Deer Permit
3. Two Antlerless Deer (One Statewide + One in Designated WMD/Subunit)
 - Bag Limit: Two antlerless deer
 - Required: Archery Hunting License AND 1 Antlerless Deer Permit

Additional Notes:

- Hunters who take a deer without an antlerless deer permit cannot take a second deer unless they purchase an • Expanded Archery Season requires Expanded Archery Deer Permit(s).
- Learn more at: mefishwildlife.com/expanded

Visual Description of the Graphic Layout:

- Title: 'Deer Hunting Bag Limit + Permit Needs – 2025 Regular Archery/Crossbow Season'
- Subheading in orange with bow and arrow icon on the right.
- Three rows in a table showing antlered/antlerless deer options and license requirements.
- Row 1: Green antlered or brown antlerless deer with 'Archery Hunting License'
- Row 2: Green antlered AND brown antlerless deer with 'Archery Hunting License AND Antlerless Deer Permit*'
- Row 3: Two brown antlerless deer with 'Archery Hunting License AND Antlerless Deer Permit*'
- Footer: MDIFW logo with text about annual bag limits and WMDs being subject to change.