

# 2025-26 MAINE HUNTING QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Please reference the *Maine 2025-26 Summary of Hunting Laws* for more details, available at [mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws](http://mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws).



## LICENSES

To hunt in Maine, you need to have one of the 30+ hunting licenses available. These vary by category of game, equipment used, resident status, age, and other factors. Go to [mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com) to see which license type is right for you, and to read what the license allows, when it allows it, and what permits are included or need to be purchased separately.

## PERMITS

To hunt for certain game or with certain equipment, you need to buy a permit. For example, to hunt wild turkey, a hunter needs a big game or a small game hunting license and a turkey hunting permit.

Some permits are included in certain licenses. For example, the junior hunting license includes a bear permit, but non-resident licenses don't. These license-holders must buy regular or November (late-season) bear permits to hunt for bear during the firearm season on deer.

## STAMPS

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and up must purchase state waterfowl permits and federal duck stamps. 16-year-olds still hunting on a junior license may hunt on a youth day, but need a Federal duck stamp. A federal EStamp can be purchased online through participating state websites found at [fws.gov/service/buy-duck-stamp-or-e-stamp](http://fws.gov/service/buy-duck-stamp-or-e-stamp).

Migratory waterfowl permits are not required to hunt Crow, Woodcock, Common Snipe, Sora & Virginia Rails, or Gallinules. A pheasant permit is required to hunt pheasant in York and Cumberland counties.

## OPERATION GAME THIEF

Call 1-800-ALERT US (253-7887) to report game law violations. Caller identification protected. Rewards paid. Poachers are thieves — help us stop them.



## SUNDAY HUNTING IS ILLEGAL IN MAINE

### LEGAL HUNTING HOURS:

**1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Exceptions: Migratory game birds, raccoons, and coyote.**

### HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING

Hunter orange is defined as a daylight fluorescent orange color with a dominant wave length between 595 and 605 nanometers, excitation purity of at least 85% and luminance factor of at least 40%. A decal on an article of clothing that is otherwise solid hunter orange is permissible. Articles of hunter orange clothing must be in good and serviceable condition and visible from all sides.

**See hunting law book for details.**



## ETHICS ARE WHAT WE DO WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING

In the Maine woods, rarely will anyone be there to notice your ethical behavior, but the landowner and the hunters that follow will greatly appreciate it. Ethical behavior is vital to Maine's sporting future, and it encourages landowners to keep their property open for all to enjoy. So remember: always respect the rights of landowners, and please *ask first*.

## OUTDOOR PARTNERS LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM

For \$15.00, you can become an Outdoor Partner and support the MDIFW landowner relations program, which works to preserve and enhance access, helps landowners with access issues, and promotes responsible, ethical sporting behavior.

Each year when you make a contribution to the Outdoor Partners Program, you are entered into our weekly drawing for a chance to win exclusive merchandise from our sponsoring businesses and organizations. You can join at any time — either as an add-on to your license purchase or at [mefishwildlife.com/outdoorpartners](http://mefishwildlife.com/outdoorpartners).



# 2025-26 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

## 2025-26 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

| DEER                     | WMDs                     | SEASONS           |                   | LIMITS   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
|                          |                          | FIRST DAY         | LAST DAY          | ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION  |
| Expanded Archery         | Designated areas only    | September 6, 2025 | December 13, 2025 | <b>Only 1 antlered deer may be harvested annually</b><br><b>Exceptions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For 2025, in WMDs 21-25 and 29 during the firearms and muzzleloader seasons, or statewide during the regular archery and youth hunt seasons, hunters may harvest one deer, either antlered or antlerless, under the authority of their big game hunting license. This deer counts as the hunter's one deer for the year. If a hunter wants to take additional deer, an antlerless deer permit is required.</li> <li>Additional deer may be harvested by hunters possessing antlerless deer permit(s) or during the expanded archery season with appropriate permits.</li> </ul> |
| Regular Archery          | All                      | October 4, 2025   | October 31, 2025  |  |
| Youth Deer Hunt          | All                      | October 24, 2025  | October 25, 2025  |  |
| Maine Resident Only Day* | All                      | November 1, 2025  |                   |  |
| Firearms Season          | All                      | November 3, 2025  | November 29, 2025 |  |
| Muzzleloader Statewide   | All                      | December 1, 2025  | December 6, 2025  |  |
| Muzzleloader             | 12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, 29 | December 8, 2025  | December 13, 2025 |  |

| BEAR   | WMDs | SEASONS           |                    | LIMITS   |
|--|------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
|  |      | FIRST DAY         | LAST DAY           | ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION                                |
| Youth Bear Hunting Day   | All  | August 23, 2025   |                    | <b>2 Bears Per Year</b><br>1 by hunting, 1 by trapping |
| General Hunting Season   | All  | August 25, 2025   | November 29, 2025  |  |
| Hunting with Bait<br><i>Bait can be placed July 26, 2025</i>                     | All  | August 25, 2025   | September 20, 2025 |  |
| Bear Trapping  | All  | September 1, 2025 | October 31, 2025   |  |
| Hunting with Dogs<br><i>Bear dog training season is July 1 - August 21, 2025</i> | All  | September 8, 2025 | October 31, 2025   |  |

| MOOSE**<br>BY PERMIT ONLY | WMDs                         | SEASONS            |                    | LIMITS  |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
|                           |                              | FIRST DAY          | LAST DAY           | ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION   |
| Antlerless-Only           | 4A (Adaptive Unit Hunt)      | October 20, 2025   | October 25, 2025   | <b>1 Moose Per Year</b><br>A person may only harvest one moose per year, regardless of how many permits they may be listed on.<br><br>In order to harvest a moose a person must be either the permittee or sub-permittee. |
|                           |                              | October 27, 2025   | November 1, 2025   |   |
|                           |                              | November 3, 2025   | November 8, 2025   |   |
| Bull-Only                 | 1- 6, 10, 11, 18, 19, 27, 28 | September 22, 2025 | September 27, 2025 |   |
| Bull-Only                 | 1-15, 17-19, 27, 28          | October 13, 2025   | October 18, 2025   |   |
| Antlerless-Only           | 1-6, 8                       | October 27, 2025   | November 1, 2025   |   |

Permit application period: April - May of each year.

\*A non-resident who owns 25 or more acres of land in Maine and leaves land open to hunting, holds a valid hunting license, and is not otherwise prohibited by law, may hunt deer on the Resident only day, anywhere in the state. A verification form must be completed and can be located on our website.

| FALL WILD TURKEY<br><i>Archery equipment or shotgun</i>   | WMDs                           | SEASONS   |                                      | LIMITS   |  |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|   |                                | FIRST DAY   | LAST DAY                             | SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION  |  |
| General Hunting Season  | 15-17, 20-25                   | September 15, 2025  | November 7, 2025                     | 5 Wild Turkeys*  | No more than two wild turkeys (either-sex, any age) may be harvested per permit holder per day, but cannot exceed the WMD bag limit. |
|   | 26                             | September 15, 2025  | November 7, 2025                     | 3 Wild Turkeys*  |  |
|   | 28                             | September 15, 2025  | November 7, 2025                     | 2 Wild Turkeys*  |  |
|   | 3, 6-8, 10-14, 18, 19, 27 & 29 | September 15, 2025  | November 7, 2025                     | 1 Wild Turkey*   |  |
|   | 1, 2, 4, 5, 9                  | Closed to taking of Wild Turkeys                              |                                      |  |  |
| Youth Fall Wild Turkey Day  |                                | September 13, 2025  |                                      |  |  |
| <i>*May harvest up to 5 turkeys for the fall season, but an individual WMD bag limit cannot be exceeded. The order in which they are harvested from a WMD does not matter.</i>    |                                |   |                                      |  |  |
| SPRING WILD TURKEY<br><i>Archery equipment or shotgun</i>   | WMDs                           | SEASONS   |                                      | LIMITS   |  |
|   |                                | FIRST DAY   | LAST DAY                             | SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION  |  |
| All Hunters   | 7 and 9-29                     | May 4, 2026   | June 6, 2026                         | 2 bearded Wild Turkeys**   |  |
|   | 1-6 and 8                      | May 4, 2026   | June 6, 2026                         | 1 bearded Wild Turkey**  |  |
| Youth Spring Wild Turkey Day  |                                | May 2, 2026   |                                      | May harvest up to 2 bearded Wild Turkeys from WMDs that have a 2 bird limit. |  |
| <i>**May harvest up to 2 turkeys for the spring season, but an individual WMD bag limit cannot be exceeded. The order in which they are harvested from a WMD does not matter.</i> |                                |   |                                      |  |  |
| UPLAND AND MIGRATORY BIRDS  | WMDs                           | SEASONS   |                                      | LIMITS   |  |
|   |                                | FIRST DAY   | LAST DAY                             | DAILY BAG  | POSSESSION   |
| Ruffed Grouse & Bobwhite Quail  | All                            | September 27, 2025  | December 31, 2025                    | 4  | 8  |
| Pheasant  | All                            | September 27, 2025  | December 31, 2025                    | 2  | 4  |
| Woodcock  | All                            | September 27, 2025  | November 18, 2025                    | 3  | 9  |
| Common Snipe  | All                            | September 1, 2025   | January 2, 2026                      | 8  | 24   |
| Ducks, Geese, Sea Ducks (Scoter, Eider, Long-Tailed Duck)   |                                | See pg. 36  |                                      |  |  |
| Sora & Virginia Rails (and Gallinules)  | All                            | September 1, 2025   | November 20, 2025                    | 25   | 25   |
| Crows   | 1-6                            | August 1, 2025<br>February 2, 2026                            | September 20, 2025<br>April 15, 2026 | No daily bag or possession limit   |  |
|   | 7-29                           | August 1, 2025<br>January 17, 2026                            | September 20, 2025<br>March 31, 2026 |  |  |
| OTHER SPECIES   | WMDs                           | SEASONS   |                                      | LIMITS   |  |
|   |                                | FIRST DAY   | LAST DAY                             | DAILY BAG  | POSSESSION   |
| Gray Squirrel   | All                            | September 27, 2025  | January 31, 2026                     | 4  | 8  |
| Gray Squirrel (Falconry)  | All                            | September 27, 2025  | February 28, 2026                    | 4  | 8  |
| Snowshoe Hare   | All                            | September 27, 2025  | March 31, 2026                       | 4  | 8  |
|   | Season on Island of Vinalhaven | September 27, 2025  | February 28, 2026                    |  |  |
| Bobcat  | All                            | December 1, 2025  | February 21, 2026                    | No Limit   |  |
| Fox   | All                            | October 20, 2025  | February 28, 2026                    | No Limit   |  |
| Raccoon   | All                            | October 1, 2025   | December 31, 2025                    | No Limit   |  |
| Skunk, Opossum  | All                            | October 20, 2025  | December 31, 2025                    | No Limit   |  |
| Coyote  | All                            | During daylight hunting hours<br>No Closed Season for Hunting |                                      | No Limit   |  |
|   |                                | Night hunting<br>December 16, 2025 - August 31, 2026          |                                      |  |  |
| Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel  | All                            | No Closed Season  |                                      | No Limit   |  |
| Spruce Grouse, Lynx, Cottontail Rabbit  |                                | No Open Season for Hunting                                    |                                      |  |  |

**Note:** Except for migratory game birds, there is no hunting season on any species of bird or animal which is not listed above. All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.

*This time chart is NOT the sunrise and sunset time table and has already been adjusted to display the actual legal hunting hours.*

| 2025-26 LEGAL HUNTING HOURS |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| DAY                         | SEPTEMBER   | OCTOBER     | NOVEMBER    | DECEMBER    | JANUARY     | FEBRUARY    | MARCH       | APRIL       | MAY         | JUNE        | JULY        | AUGUST      |
| 01                          | 5:28 - 7:41 | 6:03 - 6:45 | 6:44 - 5:53 | 6:23 - 4:26 | 6:43 - 4:35 |             |             | 5:46 - 7:33 | 4:55 - 8:10 | 4:22 - 8:44 | 4:23 - 8:55 | 4:51 - 8:31 |
| 02                          | 5:29 - 7:40 | 6:05 - 6:43 |             | 6:24 - 4:25 | 6:43 - 4:36 | 6:23 - 5:15 | 5:41 - 5:54 | 5:44 - 7:34 | 4:53 - 8:12 | 4:22 - 8:45 | 4:24 - 8:55 |             |
| 03                          | 5:30 - 7:38 | 6:06 - 6:41 | 5:46 - 4:50 | 6:25 - 4:25 | 6:43 - 4:37 | 6:22 - 5:16 | 5:39 - 5:56 | 5:42 - 7:35 |             | 4:21 - 8:46 | 4:24 - 8:54 | 4:53 - 8:29 |
| 04                          | 5:31 - 7:36 | 6:07 - 6:40 | 5:48 - 4:49 | 6:26 - 4:25 |             | 6:21 - 5:18 | 5:37 - 5:57 | 5:40 - 7:37 | 4:50 - 8:14 | 4:21 - 8:47 | 4:25 - 8:54 | 4:54 - 8:27 |
| 05                          | 5:32 - 7:34 |             | 5:49 - 4:48 | 6:27 - 4:24 | 6:43 - 4:39 | 6:20 - 5:19 | 5:36 - 5:58 |             | 4:49 - 8:15 | 4:20 - 8:47 |             | 4:56 - 8:26 |
| 06                          | 5:34 - 7:32 | 6:10 - 6:36 | 5:50 - 4:46 | 6:28 - 4:24 | 6:42 - 4:40 | 6:18 - 5:21 | 5:34 - 5:59 | 5:37 - 7:39 | 4:48 - 8:17 | 4:20 - 8:48 | 4:26 - 8:53 | 4:57 - 8:24 |
| 07                          |             | 6:11 - 6:34 | 5:52 - 4:45 |             | 6:42 - 4:41 | 6:17 - 5:22 | 5:32 - 6:01 | 5:35 - 7:40 | 4:46 - 8:18 |             | 4:27 - 8:53 | 4:58 - 8:23 |
| 08                          | 5:36 - 7:29 | 6:12 - 6:32 | 5:53 - 4:44 | 6:30 - 4:24 | 6:42 - 4:42 |             |             | 5:33 - 7:42 | 4:45 - 8:19 | 4:19 - 8:49 | 4:28 - 8:52 | 4:59 - 8:22 |
| 09                          | 5:37 - 7:27 | 6:13 - 6:30 |             | 6:31 - 4:24 | 6:42 - 4:43 | 6:14 - 5:25 | 6:28 - 7:03 | 5:31 - 7:43 | 4:44 - 8:20 | 4:19 - 8:50 | 4:28 - 8:52 |             |
| 10                          | 5:38 - 7:25 | 6:15 - 6:29 | 5:56 - 4:42 | 6:32 - 4:24 | 6:41 - 4:44 | 6:13 - 5:26 | 6:27 - 7:05 | 5:29 - 7:44 |             | 4:19 - 8:51 | 4:29 - 8:51 | 5:01 - 8:19 |
| 11                          | 5:40 - 7:23 | 6:16 - 6:27 | 5:57 - 4:41 | 6:33 - 4:24 |             | 6:11 - 5:28 | 6:25 - 7:06 | 5:28 - 7:45 | 4:41 - 8:22 | 4:19 - 8:51 | 4:30 - 8:51 | 5:03 - 8:17 |
| 12                          | 5:41 - 7:21 |             | 5:59 - 4:39 | 6:34 - 4:24 | 6:41 - 4:47 | 6:10 - 5:29 | 6:23 - 7:07 |             | 4:40 - 8:24 | 4:19 - 8:52 |             | 5:04 - 8:16 |
| 13                          | 5:42 - 7:19 | 6:18 - 6:23 | 6:00 - 4:38 | 6:35 - 4:24 | 6:40 - 4:48 | 6:09 - 5:31 | 6:21 - 7:09 | 5:24 - 7:48 | 4:39 - 8:25 | 4:19 - 8:52 | 4:32 - 8:50 | 5:05 - 8:14 |
| 14                          |             | 6:20 - 6:22 | 6:01 - 4:37 |             | 6:40 - 4:49 | 6:07 - 5:32 | 6:19 - 7:10 | 5:22 - 7:49 | 4:38 - 8:26 |             | 4:33 - 8:49 | 5:06 - 8:13 |
| 15                          | 5:44 - 7:15 | 6:21 - 6:20 | 6:03 - 4:36 | 6:36 - 4:25 | 6:39 - 4:50 |             |             | 5:21 - 7:50 | 4:37 - 8:27 | 4:18 - 8:53 | 4:33 - 8:48 | 5:07 - 8:11 |
| 16                          | 5:45 - 7:13 | 6:22 - 6:18 |             | 6:37 - 4:25 | 6:39 - 4:52 | 6:04 - 5:35 | 6:16 - 7:13 | 5:19 - 7:52 | 4:35 - 8:28 | 4:19 - 8:53 | 4:34 - 8:48 |             |
| 17                          | 5:47 - 7:12 | 6:24 - 6:16 | 6:05 - 4:34 | 6:37 - 4:25 | 6:38 - 4:53 | 6:02 - 5:36 | 6:14 - 7:14 | 5:17 - 7:53 |             | 4:19 - 8:54 | 4:35 - 8:47 | 5:10 - 8:08 |
| 18                          | 5:48 - 7:10 | 6:25 - 6:15 | 6:07 - 4:34 | 6:38 - 4:26 |             | 6:01 - 5:38 | 6:12 - 7:15 | 5:15 - 7:54 | 4:33 - 8:30 | 4:19 - 8:54 | 4:36 - 8:46 | 5:11 - 8:06 |
| 19                          | 5:49 - 7:08 |             | 6:08 - 4:33 | 6:39 - 4:26 | 6:37 - 4:56 | 5:59 - 5:39 | 6:10 - 7:16 |             | 4:32 - 8:32 | 4:19 - 8:54 |             | 5:12 - 8:05 |
| 20                          | 5:50 - 7:06 | 6:27 - 6:11 | 6:09 - 4:32 | 6:39 - 4:27 | 6:36 - 4:57 | 5:58 - 5:41 | 6:08 - 7:18 | 5:12 - 7:57 | 4:31 - 8:33 | 4:19 - 8:55 | 4:38 - 8:44 | 5:13 - 8:03 |
| 21                          |             | 6:29 - 6:10 | 6:11 - 4:31 |             | 6:35 - 4:58 | 5:56 - 5:42 | 6:06 - 7:19 | 5:10 - 7:58 | 4:30 - 8:34 |             | 4:39 - 8:43 | 5:14 - 8:01 |
| 22                          | 5:53 - 7:02 | 6:30 - 6:08 | 6:12 - 4:30 | 6:40 - 4:28 | 6:34 - 5:00 |             |             | 5:09 - 7:59 | 4:30 - 8:35 | 4:19 - 8:55 | 4:40 - 8:42 | 5:16 - 8:00 |
| 23                          | 5:54 - 7:00 | 6:31 - 6:07 |             | 6:41 - 4:28 | 6:33 - 5:01 | 5:53 - 5:45 | 6:03 - 7:21 | 5:07 - 8:00 | 4:29 - 8:36 | 4:20 - 8:55 | 4:41 - 8:41 |             |
| 24                          | 5:55 - 6:58 | 6:33 - 6:05 | 6:14 - 4:29 | 6:41 - 4:29 | 6:33 - 5:02 | 5:51 - 5:46 | 6:01 - 7:23 | 5:06 - 8:02 |             | 4:20 - 8:55 | 4:42 - 8:40 | 5:18 - 7:56 |
| 25                          | 5:56 - 6:56 | 6:34 - 6:03 | 6:16 - 4:28 | 6:41 - 4:29 |             | 5:50 - 5:47 | 5:59 - 7:24 | 5:04 - 8:03 | 4:27 - 8:38 | 4:20 - 8:55 | 4:43 - 8:39 | 5:19 - 7:54 |
| 26                          | 5:57 - 6:54 |             | 6:17 - 4:28 | 6:42 - 4:30 | 6:31 - 5:05 | 5:48 - 5:49 | 5:57 - 7:25 |             | 4:26 - 8:39 | 4:21 - 8:55 |             | 5:20 - 7:53 |
| 27                          | 5:59 - 6:53 | 6:37 - 6:00 | 6:18 - 4:27 | 6:42 - 4:31 | 6:30 - 5:07 | 5:46 - 5:50 | 5:55 - 7:27 | 5:01 - 8:05 | 4:25 - 8:40 | 4:21 - 8:55 | 4:46 - 8:37 | 5:22 - 7:51 |
| 28                          |             | 6:38 - 5:59 | 6:19 - 4:27 |             | 6:29 - 5:08 | 5:44 - 5:51 | 5:53 - 7:28 | 4:59 - 8:07 | 4:25 - 8:41 |             | 4:47 - 8:36 | 5:23 - 7:49 |
| 29                          | 6:01 - 6:49 | 6:40 - 5:57 | 6:21 - 4:26 | 6:42 - 4:32 | 6:28 - 5:09 |             |             | 4:58 - 8:08 | 4:24 - 8:42 | 4:22 - 8:55 | 4:48 - 8:35 | 5:24 - 7:47 |
| 30                          | 6:02 - 6:47 | 6:41 - 5:56 |             | 6:43 - 4:33 | 6:27 - 5:11 |             | 5:49 - 7:30 | 4:56 - 8:09 | 4:23 - 8:42 | 4:23 - 8:55 | 4:49 - 8:34 |             |
| 31                          |             | 6:42 - 5:55 |             | 6:43 - 4:34 | 6:26 - 5:12 |             | 5:48 - 7:32 |             |             |             | 4:50 - 8:32 | 5:26 - 7:44 |

*\*Legal hunting hours are based on sunrise/sunset in Bangor, Maine (Eastern Standard Time) and are to be used statewide.  
Exceptions: Raccoon, Coyote, and Migratory Bird hunting (see separate legal hunting hours for these species).*