

Crossbow Hunting Permit Fact Sheet



- To be eligible to purchase a crossbow hunting permit the customer must hold a valid license to hunt big game (either a big game hunting license or an archery license).
- Customer must submit proof of having successfully completed an archery hunting education course **and** a crossbow hunting course or satisfactory evidence of having previously held adult archery **and** crossbow hunting licenses in this State or any other state, province or country in any year after 1979. When proof or evidence cannot be provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit.
- A person under 16 years of age may hunt with a crossbow if that person holds a valid junior hunting license (no crossbow permit required).
- With a valid crossbow hunting permit a person under 65 years of age may use a crossbow to hunt any wild bird or wild animal in season except a crossbow may NOT be used to hunt deer during the expanded archery season, the regular October archery season, and the muzzle loading season. In addition, persons under 65 years of age may NOT hunt turkey with a crossbow during the fall turkey season.
- Crossbow hunting courses are available from the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Please check our web site at mefishwildlife.com for details on class schedules.
- A crossbow hunting permit is included as part of a Native American Hunting License, a Disabled Veteran Hunting License, and a Lifetime Hunting License of a person over 70 years of age if they meet the archery and crossbow safety course requirements.
- A person 65 years of age or older may hunt a wild bird or a wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or animal subject to all other laws pertaining to those seasons, birds, or animals.
- This includes hunting deer with a crossbow during the expanded archery season, the October archery season, the muzzle loading season, and hunting turkey during the fall turkey season. All persons hunting with a crossbow under this provision must meet the archery and crossbow safety course requirements.
- A convicted felon can hunt with a crossbow, but must meet the archery and crossbow safety course requirements and must hold a valid archery license and a crossbow permit.