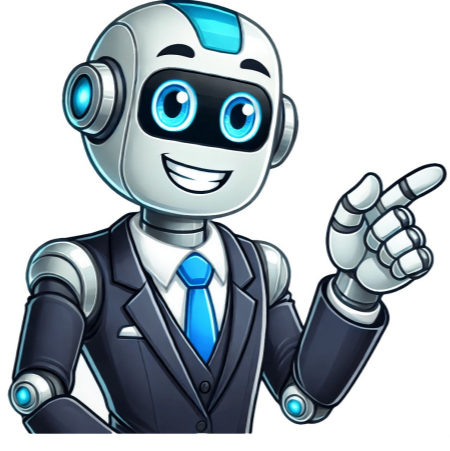


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Disease Management Areas Established in Virginia Virginia CWD Franklin, Roanoke, and Wythe counties have been added to Disease Management Area 3. Disease Management Area 4 has been created and encompasses Bland, Smyth, and Tazewell counties. Bedford, Botetourt, Henry, Russell, Smyth, and Washington counties are now on the list of counties where feeding of deer is prohibited year-round. Mandatory CWD testing will take place in Carroll, Franklin, Patrick, Pulaski, Shenandoah, Tazewell, and Wythe counties on November 16, 2024. Hunters in Virginia must obtain a valid hunting license prior to participating in any hunting activities. Special permits may be required for certain game or specific lands, and landowners have exemptions allowing them to hunt on their own property without a license. Resident licenses are available to those who have lived in Virginia for a continuous 6 months, while non-resident licenses are required for hunters who do not meet the residency requirement. Youth and senior licenses offer reduced fees for younger and older hunters respectively. Hunting is permitted from one half-hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset for nonmigratory birds and game animals. However, spring turkey season has shorter hunting hours, while late season hunting hours are extended until sunset. General season hunting hours follow the 1/2 hour rule before sunrise to after sunset. All hunters in Virginia must use firearms and archery tackle that conform to state legal guidelines, with local ordinances further restricting this use in some counties. Acquiring a Hunter Education Certificate is mandatory for all first-time hunters, reinforcing the importance of safety and knowledge. Virginia offers diverse hunting seasons and bag limits designed to manage wildlife populations responsibly while providing ample opportunities for hunters. Strict adherence to these regulations ensures conservation efforts are supported and hunting traditions can be sustained for future generations. Deer hunting seasons vary by region but generally include archery, muzzleloader, and general firearms seasons. Specific dates are set for the hunting of antlered deer and antlerless deer, allowing hunters to plan their hunts accordingly. Turkey hunters must pay close attention to distinct spring and fall seasons, with specific bag limits for each season. Regulations surrounding hunting in Virginia are a delicate balance between state laws, ethical practices, and conservation efforts. For instance, the bag limits and seasons for animals such as coyotes and bobcats are subject to change each year, with these adjustments aimed at maintaining sustainable populations. In contrast, migratory game birds like ducks and geese have specific regulations tied to their species and population statuses, which can fluctuate annually. Private landowners in Virginia hold significant sway over hunting on their properties, requiring hunters to obtain written permission beforehand. Local ordinances and regulations also come into play, with cities like Fairfax and Virginia Beach imposing unique rules and restrictions. Hunters are advised to stay abreast of the most current guidelines, including those outlined in the Virginia DWR Public Hunting Lands document, which details specific rules for public lands managed by the state. Furthermore, localities within Virginia may have their own set of regulations, such as discharge ordinances or restrictions on certain types of hunting equipment. In an effort to promote safety, conservation, and fair chase practices, the use of tree stands, management of hunting dogs, and adherence to baiting and feeding wildlife are strictly regulated in Virginia. By following these guidelines, hunters contribute to the long-term sustainability of the sport for future generations. Hunters in Virginia are allowed to use elevated stands and platforms but must wear blaze orange or pink for visibility during certain seasons. Elevated positions offer a better view of the surroundings. Some areas exempt people with disabilities from using these stands. Using dogs is traditional, but there are rules about when and how they can be used. Hunters must follow specific regulations for training and managing their dogs. Intentional feeding of deer is prohibited to prevent the spread of diseases. Hunters in Virginia are required to wear blaze orange or pink clothing during firearms deer season. This includes a hat and at least 100 square inches of brightly colored material on the chest, back, and shoulders. However, some hunters are exempt from this rule, such as those hunting migratory birds or riding horses without firearms. In Virginia, wildlife regulations are tightly enforced to safeguard both species and hunting traditions. Established bag limits and season dates vary across counties. Violations like out-of-season hunting, exceeding bag limits, or using illegal methods can result in penalties, including fines and suspension of hunting privileges. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website provides detailed information on laws and regulations. Respect landowner rights in Virginia, as trespassing without permission is illegal and punishable by law. Hunters must obtain written consent before hunting on private property, which may be posted with "No Hunting" signs. Penalties for trespass can include significant fines or incarceration. Knowledge of local firearms ordinances is crucial to avoid violations. Responsible hunting in Virginia involves mandatory reporting and tagging of harvested game, ensuring effective wildlife management practices. All harvested deer must be tagged immediately before being moved from the site of kill. For managed hunts, hunters may need Bonus Deer Permits or participate in programs like DCAP (Deer Control Assistance Program) and DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program), which provide additional tags based on specific criteria. After a deer has been harvested and tagged, the hunter must report the deer harvest using the Department of Wildlife Resources' online or telephone system before midnight the day after the kill. For turkey, hunters must adhere to specific harvest reporting procedures. The process for reporting a turkey harvest mirrors that of deer, providing essential data for the DWR to manage populations and hunting opportunities. By following these guidelines and participating in responsible wildlife conservation, hunters contribute to sustainable practices in Virginia. Wildlife management in Virginia is a complex process focusing on the long-term sustainability of game species and their habitats. Through various regulations and initiatives, the state ensures that wildlife populations remain healthy while maintaining habitat quality for both humans and animals. Species protection and management are key components of conservation efforts in the state. Measures such as Antler Point Restriction programs help manage deer populations, allowing young bucks to mature while preventing overhunting. Carefully structured hunting seasons control game species like white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and black bears, reducing conflicts between humans and wildlife. Additionally, nuisance species are addressed through targeted strategies balancing animal welfare with ecosystem needs. The state prioritizes habitat preservation to support diverse wildlife populations by maintaining public lands such as Wildlife Management Areas and state forests, which provide essential habitats for game and non-game species alike. Virginia collaborates with local entities to ensure consistent conservation practices across jurisdictions, creating a network of habitats for migratory and residential wildlife. This cooperative approach enables more extensive and effective conservation impacts than individual efforts alone. Hunters in Virginia can pursue various game species, including white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, and small game like squirrels and waterfowl. Hunting regulations are outlined in the state's Hunting & Trapping Regulations, with specific listings and dates for each season. Deer hunting seasons are divided into archery, muzzleloader, and general firearms seasons, each with its own set of rules regarding bag limits and antler-point restrictions. Hunters must also comply with firearm usage laws, which vary depending on the location and type of weapon used. Landowners, their spouses, and children may hunt on their property without a license, but exceptions and qualifications apply as outlined in Virginia's General Hunting Information. Using bait to attract deer is strictly prohibited in the state. Virginia Hunting Seasons and Regulations During Virginia's hunting season, various materials can be used as bait, including grain, salt products, minerals, and other edible items. To hunt in the state, individuals must obtain a valid hunting license. This license comes with different types, and applicants must complete a hunter education course before getting their license. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website has detailed information on hunting licenses, public and private land access, outfitter tips, and more. The department also offers the Hunting & Trapping Digest, which outlines rules, bag limits, and season dates for all game species. Make sure to review the latest regulations before planning your hunt. * Firearm season begins on January 1 and ends on February 28, 2026. * Raccoon and opossum trapping allowed from November 1 to March 10, 2026. * Various species can be trapped during this time period as well. * The mourning dove has multiple seasons: September 1 - October 25, 2025; November 15 - November 30, 2025; December 26, 2025 - January 10, 2026. * Resident Canada geese can be hunted from September 1 - September 25, 2025. * Early teal season is from September 13 - September 21, 2025. * Woodcocks have multiple seasons as well: November 15 - November 29, 2025; December 13, 2025 - January 31, 2026. * Rails (Sora and Virginian) can be hunted from September 8 - November 16, 2025. * Ducks are allowed during the following dates: October 11 - October 14, 2025; November 15 - November 30, 2025; December 13, 2025 - January 31, 2026. * Canada geese (regular) have the same hunting season as ducks: November 15 - November 30, 2025 and December 13, 2025 - January 31, 2026. * The Youth/Apprentice Waterfowl Days will take place on February 7-8, 2026. * Always check for the most up-to-date information regarding hunting seasons and regulations as they can vary depending on your location. To guarantee the long-term viability of hunting in Virginia, here are some valuable insights for making the most out of your hunting experience: Begin by thoroughly surveying Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and national forests to secure prime locations. Study regional game patterns, encompassing feeding and migration habits. Plan your hunts according to weather conditions and seasonal patterns. The Old Dominion State offers a wide range of opportunities for hunters of all skill levels, from its extensive public lands to its comprehensive conservation programs. Start by reviewing regulations, obtaining your license, and planning your next adventure!

Virginia hunting season 2023-24. Virginia 2023 hunting season. Virginia hunting 2023.