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2024 25 wv hunting seasons

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has announced updated hunting regulations for the 2024-25 season. These changes include revised antlerless deer season dates, open counties for wild turkey and black bear hunting, and new transportation rules for deer carcasses in Jefferson County. Hunters are advised to review these updates and plan accordingly to ensure a successful hunt. The annual bag limit for all regular deer seasons remains two, except for three antlered deer that can be taken in the West Virginia CWD Containment Area by Class XS license holders. Additionally, coyote night hunting is permitted only on private land with written consent from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31. Hunters must also purchase their 2024 West Virginia hunting licenses and stamps before the seasons start this fall. To stay informed about the latest regulations and season dates, visit the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources website or contact local hunting and fishing license agents for more information. Hunting Seasons in West Virginia In West Virginia, various hunting seasons are set for different game species and methods, including archery, muzzleloader, and firearms. **General Seasons** Archery: Sept. 25 - Dec. 31* Firearms: Aug. 28 - Dec. 31* Buck Firearms: Nov. 22 - Dec. 5* Antlerless: Oct. 21-24, Nov. 22-Dec. 5, Dec. 9-12, Dec. 28-31* Muzzleloader: Dec. 13-19**Youth Seasons** Spring General Season (Bearded Only): Apr. 18-May 22* Fall General Season: Oct. 16-17, Oct. 25-31, Nov. 14* Spring Youth Season: Apr. 16-17**Game Species and Dates** Squirrel: Sept. 11-Feb. 28* Ruffed Grouse: Oct. 16-Feb. 28* Bobwhite Quail: Nov. 6-Jan. 1* Rabbit and Hare: Nov. 6-Feb. 28* Pheasant: Nov. 6-Jan. 1* Raccoon: Oct. 16-Feb. 28**Important Information** Purchase a West Virginia hunting license online or at licensed agents.* Field tag big game before moving the carcass from the kill site.* Wear fluorescent orange during most firearms hunting seasons (except for certain game and methods).* Bag limits are determined by data from wildlife population studies, scientific research, and public input.* Use only permitted firearms and ammunition for hunting different game species.**What to Do If You Encounter a Sick or Diseased Animal** Report it to the West Virginia DNR. To enjoy hunting in West Virginia, one needs to be well-versed in the current season dates and abide by the necessary permits and regulations. By following these guidelines, hunters can contribute to the preservation of the state's rich hunting heritage while also respecting and conserving its diverse wildlife population. The Mountain State offers a wide range of exciting opportunities for both seasoned and novice hunters alike. The comprehensive guide provided by West Virginia is a valuable resource that covers essential information on game regulations, bag limits, required permits, and helpful connections to enhance the overall hunting experience. West Virginia's picturesque Appalachian Mountains serve as a backdrop for numerous annual big game events. With its breathtaking scenery and abundance of wildlife, including deer, bear, turkey, and small game, the state presents an ideal outdoor destination. ## Hunting Seasons in West Virginia: **Buck Firearms: ** 25-Nov to 8-Dec. **Archery and Crossbow: ** 28-Sep to 31-Dec. **Antlerless: ** 24-Oct to 27-Oct##Special Hunting Seasons:** **Split Season (Selected Counties):** Various dates, including 12-Dec to 15-Dec and 28-Dec to 31-Dec. **Muzzleloader: ** 16-Dec to 22-Dec. **Youth/Class Q/Class XS Split: ** Various dates, including 19-Oct to 20-Oct and 26-Dec to 27-Dec##Winter Seasons:** **Winter 2025 Mountaineer Heritage: ** 9-Jan to 12-Jan (Archery and Crossbow). Gun seasons vary. **Gun Split: ** 7-Feb to 9-Feb. **Upland Birds: ** Various dates, including Winter 2025 Mountaineer Heritage##Bird Hunting Seasons:** **Turkey (Fall): ** 12-Oct to 20-Oct and 28-Oct to 3-Nov and 28-Oct to 17-Nov. **Turkey (Spring - Bearded Only): ** 21-Apr to 25-May. **Ruffed Grouse: ** 12-Oct to 28-Feb##Waterfowl Seasons:** **Mourning Dove: ** Various splits, including 1-Sep to 13-Oct and 4-Nov to 17-Nov. **Woodcock (1st Split): ** 12-Oct to 23-Nov. **Ducks: ** Various splits, including 1-Oct to 14-Oct and 11-Nov to 16-NovThe Mountaineer Heritage Hunting Season is an annual event in West Virginia that allows individuals to hunt using historic weaponry. The four-day season, held over a weekend in January, permits the use of flintlock rifles and pistols, longbows, and other prehistoric tools. This season has gained popularity in recent years, with more participants each year. During this time, hunters are required to wear blaze orange and follow specific game restrictions. They can only capture one deer, one bear, and one turkey, with limits on the number of antlered deer. A valid state license is needed for all hunters 15 and older. The goal of this season is to enable hunters to rediscover the Mountaineer Heritage and hunt like it was done 150 years ago. The experience of the hunt is more important than the result, which has led to a success rate that is often low. To hunt deer during the WV Mountaineer Heritage Season, you need a valid hunting license for the current year. This season allows hunters to use longbows, recurve bows, flintlock rifles, pistols, and rifles with percussion locks when hunting deer. In addition to regular hunting regulations, some specific rules apply to the WV Mountaineer Heritage Season. For example, there is a 1 deer and 1 bear bag limit per hunter. Longbows, recurve bows, flintlock rifles, pistols, and percussion side lock weapons are allowed for both deer and bear hunting. In terms of antlered deer, hunters can only take three in total between the ordinary and Mountaineer Heritage Seasons. During the combined Archery and Mountaineer Heritage Seasons, only one antlered deer may be taken in certain counties. Legal Weapons Statewide include long bows, recurve bows, .38 caliber or bigger single-shot side lock or flintlock muzzleloading rifles, and .38 caliber or larger single-shot side lock or flintlock muzzleloading pistols. Firearms with telescopic sights are prohibited, as are inline muzzleloaders. For more information on the WV Mountaineer Heritage Season, you can call the WVDNR Office between Mon-Fri 8:30 am 5:00 pm at Phone number 304-558-6200. The season runs from September through March, and different types of hunting seasons apply to various species. For example, duck and geese hunting is from September to January, while turkey hunting is from April to May. Hunters need licenses, which can be obtained online or in-person from licensing agents. The type of license required depends on your residence status, age, and game type. You may also need additional stamps such as the Deer Stamp and Turkey Stamp. WV has youth and mentoring programs that allow young hunters to hunt with an unarmed, licensed adult. These initiatives encourage responsible and ethical hunting practices among young hunters. In terms of public lands, WV allows hunting on these grounds but requires a license and stamps. Hunters must follow WVDNR laws, including shooting hours and bag restrictions. Each public land region may have specific restrictions, such as weapons or hunting seasons. Wild Boar (Archery and Crossbow) Split Season: September 28 - December 31* Deer (Buck Firearms) November 25 - December 31* Deer (Archery and Crossbow) September 28 - December 31* Deer (Antlerless) Split Season (Selected Counties): October 24 - December 15* Deer (Muzzleloader) December 16 - December 22* Bear (Archery and Crossbow) *September 28 - December 31 *Bear (Gun) (Selected Counties): August 31 - December 9* Bear (Youth/Class Q/Class XS) Split Season: September 14 - October 20* Turkey (Fall) Split Season (Selected Counties): October 12 - November 17* Turkey (Spring 2025 Bearded Only): April 21 - May 25 *Turkey (Spring 2025 Youth Season): April 19 - April 20*Squirrel (Gray, Black, Albino and Fox): September 14 - February 28*Ruffed Grouse: October 12 - February 28*Bobwhite Quail (Closed on Tomblin WMA): November 2 - January 4 *Cottontail Rabbit: November 2 - February 28*Snowshoe or Varying Hare: November 2 - February 28*Ringed-necked Pheasant (Cock Birds Only): November 2 - January 42*Raccoon (Hunting): October 12 - February 28 *Raccoon (Trapping): November 2 - February 28*Red Fox, Gray Fox (Hunting and Trapping): November 2 - February 28*Bobcat (Hunting and Trapping): November 2 - February 28West Virginia sets regulated hunting season dates based on scientific research and biology to manage game species while maximizing recreational opportunities for hunters. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) regulates open seasons, bag limits, and sex of bird/mammal legal for harvest. Season changes are presented to the public for comments during annual regulations meetings, with input from wildlife biologists and managers. The WVDNR director approves or rejects these recommendations at spring and summer meetings. The current Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary provides specific hunting season dates, bag limits, and other information. West Virginia's archery and crossbow seasons are open from September 28 to December 31, 2024, allowing hunters to pursue deer, black bear, and wild boar across the state. During these seasons, hunters can harvest up to three deer with a bow or crossbow, with one deer taken on a base license and two additional ones if they purchase RB/RRB archery deer stamps. Deer of either sex can be harvested, but crossbows are restricted in certain counties without a Class Y permit. Black bears can be harvested for two times, as long as one bear is taken in specific counties with a base license and Bear Damage Stamp. ## Wild Boar Hunting Regulations: A Crucial Guide for Hunters in West Virginia. The pursuit of wild boars is restricted to Boone, Logan, Raleigh, and Wyoming counties. It's essential to note that you're only allowed one harvest during all combined seasons. For more information, refer to page 45 in the Hunting Regulations Summary. Adequate gear is vital for a safe and successful archery and crossbow hunting experience in West Virginia. Not only does it enhance accuracy and efficiency, but it also ensures compliance with state regulations. To hunt deer, black bear, or wild boar, you must possess a valid hunting license. Depending on your type of license, you may require additional stamps, such as the Conservation Stamp (Class CS) and Big Game Stamp (Class BG), to hunt these species. For details, consult page 46 in the Hunting Regulations Summary. If you wish to harvest extra deer during West Virginia's archery and crossbow seasons for deer, ensure that your hunting license and RB/RRB stamps are purchased by September 27th at 11:59 p.m. When selecting a bow or crossbow, prioritize a manageable draw weight that provides sufficient power without causing strain. For bows, opt for models with a lightweight and compact design suitable for beginners. Crossbows should have at least a 125-pound draw weight and a reliable safety mechanism. It's also crucial to verify that your bolts or arrows meet West Virginia's legal requirements. Arrows and crossbow bolts must be at least 16 inches long, including the insert and nock. Broadheads must have two sharp-cutting edges and be at least 3/4 of an inch wide. The use of explosive, drug-laced, or poisoned arrow heads is strictly prohibited. Only single-string crossbows are allowed, and modified bow permits are required for devices holding a bow at full draw. Trying out various bows and crossbows can help you find the one that feels most comfortable and suits your needs. Investing time in choosing the right gear will significantly enhance your hunting experience by making it safer, more enjoyable, and successful. For further information on rules and regulations regarding arrows, bolts, and bow and crossbow features, refer to page six in the Hunting Regulations Summary. Essential items for the archery and crossbow seasons include proper camouflage clothing and hunting boots. A good rangefinder and field dressing kit are also crucial for efficiently harvesting your game. If you plan to hunt from a tree stand, don't skimp on your safety harness as it can prevent falls and save lives. You must attach a completed tag with your name, address, hunting license number (if required), date, time, and county of harvest to each deer, black bear, or wild boar during the archery and crossbow seasons. This tag should remain attached until it is replaced with a WVDNR-issued 13-digit game check confirmation number, which can be acquired after completing your hunt. To hunt in West Virginia, contact WVhunt.com at 1-844-WVCHECK or find an authorized agent. Hunters must wear 400 sq in blaze orange on top of their clothing when hunting in counties open to deer firearms or muzzleloader seasons. For details, see pages 1520 in the Hunting Regulations Summary. Before planning a hunt, ensure you have a West Virginia hunting license, which can be purchased online at WVhunt.com. Consider purchasing a durable license card, not only for its style but also as a keepsake representing your dedication to the sport and conservation efforts.

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