

Season Dates - Rules of Thumb

Many hunters need to plan vacations and hunting trips in advance of the annual distribution of the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations. For such planning purposes, here are the general rules of thumb used for setting annual season dates. Although there are no guarantees that these season dates will be used in future years, this is the best information available for those who must make plans well in advance of announcements of official season dates.

Coyote & Striped Skunk – Open year-round, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Crow - Oct. 28 - Feb. 28.

Deer:

Archery - Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13 (closed during firearm deer season except in Cook, DuPage, Lake, and Kane (East of Rt 47) counties).

Firearm - The Friday, Saturday and Sunday immediately before Thanksgiving and the first four-day weekend (Thursday-Sunday) after Thanksgiving.

Youth Firearm - The Saturday, Sunday, and Monday that includes the second Monday of October.

Muzzleloader - The third three-day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) following Thanksgiving. Hunting also allowed during the second firearm deer season.

Late Winter Antlerless and Special CWD - The first Thursday-Sunday after Dec. 25; and the first Friday-Sunday after Jan. 11.

Dove - 90-day season. Split season opens Sept. 1 and runs approximately 75 days; reopens the day after Christmas and runs the remainder of the 90 days.

Early Canada Goose - Sept. 1 – 15.

Furbearer Hunting- Nov. 10 – Feb. 15 for raccoon, opossum, gray and red fox, bobcat (with permit), except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Furbearer Trapping - Nov. 10 – Feb. 15 for everything except river otter, beaver (Nov. 10 – Mar. 31) and woodchuck (June 1 – Sept. 30) Must wear orange during firearm deer seasons.

Pheasant, Quail and Partridge – North - First Saturday in November through Jan. 8. South - First Saturday in November through Jan. 15.

Rabbit - First Saturday in November through Feb. 15.

Rail - Opens with teal season and runs for 70 days.

Snipe - Opens with teal season and runs for 107 days.

Squirrel - Aug. 1 - Feb. 15, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Teal - Opens on the first or second Saturday in September and runs for 16 days.

Turkey:

Spring Youth - The two consecutive weekends prior to the opening of South Zone's first season.

Spring South Zone - Begins on the first Monday in April after April 2 and ends 32 days later. Lengths for each season (in days) are 5, 6, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

Spring North Zone - Same as South Zone except one week later.

Fall Gun - The nine days beginning on Saturday of the second complete two-day weekend (Saturday and Sunday) after Oct. 10.

Fall Archery - Oct. 1 through the first Sunday after Jan. 13, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Waterfowl - All season dates and zone lines for 2021-2025 can be found [here](#).

Woodchuck - June 1 – Mar. 31, except closed during firearm deer seasons.

Woodcock - 45 days beginning on the third Saturday in October.