



2019 VERMONT SPRING AND FALL TURKEY SEASONS



2019 SPRING TURKEY SEASON

SPRING SEASON: May 1-31, 2019

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon.

LIMIT: Two bearded turkeys for the spring season.

All Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are open to hunting during the spring season.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

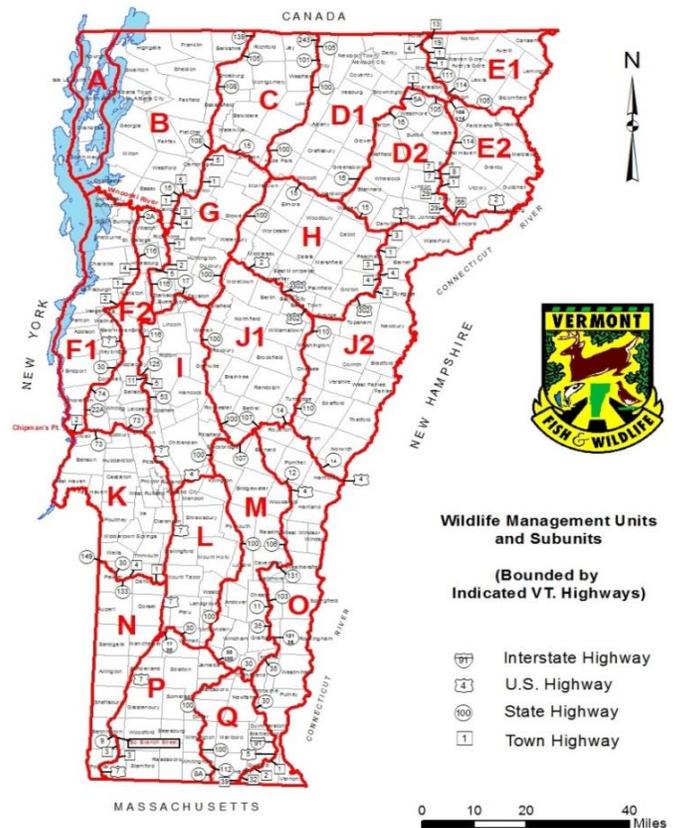
A current hunting or combination license and a current turkey license with tag are required to hunt turkey.

LIFETIME AND PERMANENT LICENSE RENEWAL

If you intend to hunt, fish, or trap in 2019, you must update your lifetime, permanent disability, or permanent license regardless of whether or not you used your tags. This is a statutory requirement which was put in place to allow the department to collect accurate harvest and licensing information for lifetime license holders.

This updated license will include current year tags. You may update your license at no cost on-line at our [website](#). If you are unable to go on-line, you may go to any authorized license agent or Fish & Wildlife Office and request to have your license updated. You can also call us at 802-828-1190 to be updated. A license agent may charge you up to \$1.50 for a reprint.

Purchase a License Online	Update a Permanent License
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LEGAL METHODS OF TAKING

Only a shotgun or vertical bow and arrow may be used by any hunter. Hunters 50 years old and older may use crossbows. Only number 2 through number 8 shot shall be used or possessed, and an arrowhead must be at least 7/8 of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

Any person wishing to hunt turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow must hold proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada which is approved by the Commissioner.

Rifles shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. No person shall use electronic calling devices, bait, live decoys, or participate in cooperative drives. No person shall use dogs in the spring season.

Landowner permission is required in order to hunt on private land with a youth turkey tag. All relevant game laws and regulations apply during Youth Turkey Hunting weekend, including the prohibition on baiting and road hunting. Landowners are not exempt from the requirement to purchase tags to hunt on their own property on youth weekends.

The amount of a fine will be doubled for a violation on Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend, and the fine shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the youth and who has the youth hunter in his or her charge.

[Upcoming Seminars](#)

[For more information on Youth Hunting Programs](#)

2019 FALL TURKEY SEASONS

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

LIMIT: One turkey of either sex for the fall season.

DATES AND WMUs OPEN TO FALL HUNTING:

- ↘ Bow and Arrow only: October 5-25, 2019 in all WMUs statewide
- ↘ Shotgun or Bow and Arrow: October 26-November 3, 2019 in WMUs B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P and Q.
- ↘ Shotgun or Bow and Arrow: October 26-November 10, 2019 in WMUs F, K, and N.

CROSSBOWS

A crossbow may be used by anyone 50 years of age or older. Anyone 49 years of age or younger may hunt with a crossbow, provided they possess a crossbow disability permit. The crossbow disability permit is issued to a person so physically impaired that he or she cannot operate a standard bow and allows that person to hunt with a crossbow. A permit applicant must produce a licensed physician's certificate certifying that the disability requires the use of a crossbow. Obtain an application from Fish & Wildlife before visiting your doctor. Applicant must also appear before a state game

warden to obtain a crossbow license. Be sure to make an appointment ahead of time.

[Crossbow Disability Permit Application \(49 years and younger\)](#)

CROSSBOW SAFETY

Keep these tips in mind when using a crossbow to ensure a safe and enjoyable hunt.

USING A CROSSBOW:

- ↘ Keep the string waxed and lubricate the rail periodically.
- ↘ Make sure your fingers are well away (below rail) from the path of the string and cables.
- ↘ Never dry-fire a crossbow.
- ↘ Make sure the limbs are free of obstructions before firing; be particularly careful if you are hunting from a ground blind.
- ↘ Never use a cocking device to uncock unless you have a model that is specifically designed to do so. Most are not.
- ↘ To uncock, shoot a specially-designed unloading point or a field tip into soft ground; or shoot a field tip into a target.
- ↘ Practice often and avoid shots at game that are beyond your effective range, generally less than 40 yards.

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

While hunting-related shootings are rare, precautions are necessary. Because birds can see color, camouflage or drab colored clothing is almost mandatory to outfit a keen-sighted turkey. Unfortunately, camouflage also prevents other hunters from seeing you.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department urges hunters to review the following safety tips:

1. **Never shoot unless you're absolutely sure of your target and what is beyond it.** Look for a beard as only turkeys with beards are legal during the spring season. If



you're not sure, skip the shot. Lack of positive identification could result in shooting an illegal bird, or worse, another hunter. Be sure to have a good backstop any time you shoot a firearm or bow.

2. **Never stalk a gobbling turkey.** Your chances of getting close are poor, and you may be sneaking up on another hunter.
3. **Avoid red, white, blue and black in clothing and equipment.** A tom turkey's head has similar colors.
4. **Stick with hen calls.** A gobbler call might draw in other hunters.
5. **Avoid unnecessary movement.** This alerts turkeys and attracts hunters.
6. **Don't hide so well that you impair your own field of vision.**
7. **Wrap your turkey in blaze orange for the hike back to the car.**
8. **Always sit with your back against a tree trunk, big log, or a boulder that is wider than your body.** This protects you from being accidentally struck by pellets fired from behind you.
9. **Place decoys on the far side of a tree trunk or a rock.** This prevents you from being directly in the line of fire should another hunter mistakenly shoot at your decoy.
10. **Wear hunter orange while moving from set-up to set-up.** Take it off when you are in position.

Remember, only turkeys stalk turkeys! Hunt smart. Hunt safe.

WHERE CAN I HUNT IN VERMONT?

Vermont has more than 800,000 acres of federal and state public land open to hunting: **National Wildlife Refuges**, the **Green Mountain National Forest**, and all **state forests**. **State Parks** are open to hunting outside the operating season.

Perhaps the crown jewel of hunting in Vermont is the state's system of 98 **Wildlife Management Areas**, or **WMAs**. All WMAs are open to hunting,

trapping, fishing and other wildlife related outdoor activities.

Information about shooting ranges is available on our [website](#).

Wildlife Management Areas	Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation
Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge	Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
Green Mountain National Forest	Vermont Shooting Ranges
Hammond Cove Shooting Range	West Mountain Shooting Range

TIPS FOR HUNTERS – Being a Good Land User

Landowners who permit you to hunt on their land are doing you a favor and placing their trust in you. Here are some recommendations to prove their trust was not misplaced, help with your relationship with the landowner, and portray a positive image of hunting.

- ↘ Respect the landowner's property – hunting, fishing, trapping or otherwise using it only when and where the landowner approves.
- ↘ Understand clearly where you can and cannot drive or park your vehicle and abide by those restrictions.
- ↘ Leave your name, address, phone number and also make, model, and license number of your vehicle with the landowner or use the Courtesy Permission Cards.
- ↘ If you have permission to return, find out if there are certain times or places that you should avoid. Always attempt to let the landowner know where you will be and when.
- ↘ Know the property boundaries and do not trespass on adjacent property.

- ↘ Try to keep the size of your hunting party small and always let the landowner know exactly who else will be hunting with you.
- ↘ Don't walk through unharvested crops or hunt near livestock or buildings.
- ↘ Leave gates as you find them. Cross fences in a manner that will not break or loosen wires or posts.
- ↘ Don't litter. Carry away litter left by others.

[Courtesy Permission Card](#)

SALE OR PURCHASE OF GAME

BIG GAME: The only time it is legal to buy or sell big game or the meat of big game within the state is during the open season and for 20 days after the season ends. The meat of big game animals is not to be bought or sold to be transported out of the state. It is illegal to buy or sell anadromous Atlantic salmon taken in the Connecticut River Basin and/or to buy or sell wild turkey at any time.

Other than the meat mentioned above, a person may buy or sell at any time:

- 🐾 The head, hide, and hoofs of legally taken deer or moose; or
- 🐾 The head, hide, paws, and internal organs of a legally taken black bear.

VERMONT HABITAT STAMP

Monies raised from sales of Vermont Habitat Stamps go to the Species and Habitat Conservation Fund, which is used to purchase and maintain Wildlife Management Areas.

Projects Supported by the Fund Include:

- ↘ Purchase lands for Wildlife Management Areas
- ↘ Improve public access to land for fish and wildlife-based activities such as bird-watching, hunting, fishing, enjoying wildlife or simply connecting with nature
- ↘ Protect and improve wetlands

- ↘ Protect and restore state-owned riparian stream banks
- ↘ Protect and enhance deer wintering areas
- ↘ Implement habitat enhancement for turkeys, bears, deer, songbirds, bats, moose, aquatic organisms, and all of Vermont's native wildlife
- ↘ Use our [online donation form](#).
- ↘ **Hunting and Fishing License Purchase:** Donate when purchasing a hunting or fishing license by simply including your contribution when applying.

When you purchase a Vermont Habitat Stamp, you help improve wildlife habitat and open land for outdoor recreation.



Please note: A stamp is not required to hunt, fish or trap, nor do you have to buy a sporting license to donate for a stamp.

<u>Vermont Habitat Stamp Online Donation Form</u>	<u>2018 Vermont Habitat Stamp Annual Report</u>
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HUNT, POST, SHARE, LIKE



Vermont Fish & Wildlife suggests the following tips to accurately reflect a positive hunting experience in social media.

- ↘ Display respect for the animal in its life and in its death. Ask yourself if your non-hunting friends would view the photo as respectful of this animal's life.
- ↘ Make sure the animal looks its best. Place the tongue back in mouth and try to minimize blood in the photo to instead focus on the beauty of the animal. Try to take a photo of a successful hunt in the animal's natural

habitat. Blue sky, forest, and mountains place hunting in the context of its natural surroundings.

- ↓ Don't just post 'grab and grin' photos after a successful hunt. Show all the aspects of the hunt to give people a more complete picture of what hunting means to you. Post photos of a silent snowy forest or quality time spent outdoors with friends and family.
- ↓ Include posts from after the hunt too. A photo of you enjoying a plate of tasty venison with friends and family will help people make the connection that wild meat is a healthy, local, sustainable food source.
- ↓ If you see friends posting unethical behavior, don't be afraid to speak up. Please forward any posts that include illegal activity to the [Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Facebook page](#) so our wardens can look into it.

If done properly, social media can be a great opportunity to show non-hunters why you are passionate about hunting and to inspire conservation and spark interest.

HUNTERS, TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease has started to become more prevalent in Vermont during the last 10 years. Ticks that cause Lyme disease are still active in the fall in Vermont so hunters that spend time in tall grass, weed, and brushes, along with successful hunters handling a deer, should follow a few simple tick-repelling precautions.

Treat your clothing and gear with permethrin before you hunt, making sure to follow the product instructions. Tuck your pants into your socks or boots to keep ticks from crawling up your legs. After returning from the hunt, check all over your body for ticks including your hair, and shower immediately.

Successful hunters handling a deer should remain vigilant for ticks even after they've returned from the field. Place a pan of soapy water under a hanging deer to kill any ticks that fall off the deer.



Be Tick Smart	Preventing Ticks Among Hunters Factsheet
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