

- **Archery season**
 - There is no longer a break between early and late archery season. The archery season is now continuous, beginning Oct. 1 and continuing through the first Sunday in January (Figure 1).
- **Special Antlerless Deer Only firearms season**
 - A special antlerless deer only firearm season is established from Dec. 26 through the first Sunday in January in counties with a bonus antlerless quota of 4 or more.
 - Hunters would need to use a bonus antlerless license, deer license bundle, lifetime comprehensive hunting, lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing, resident youth hunt/trap license, or meet a license exemption.
 - Deer harvested during this season count toward the bonus antlerless county quota limit. The bonus antlerless county quotas will be available in July, 2012.

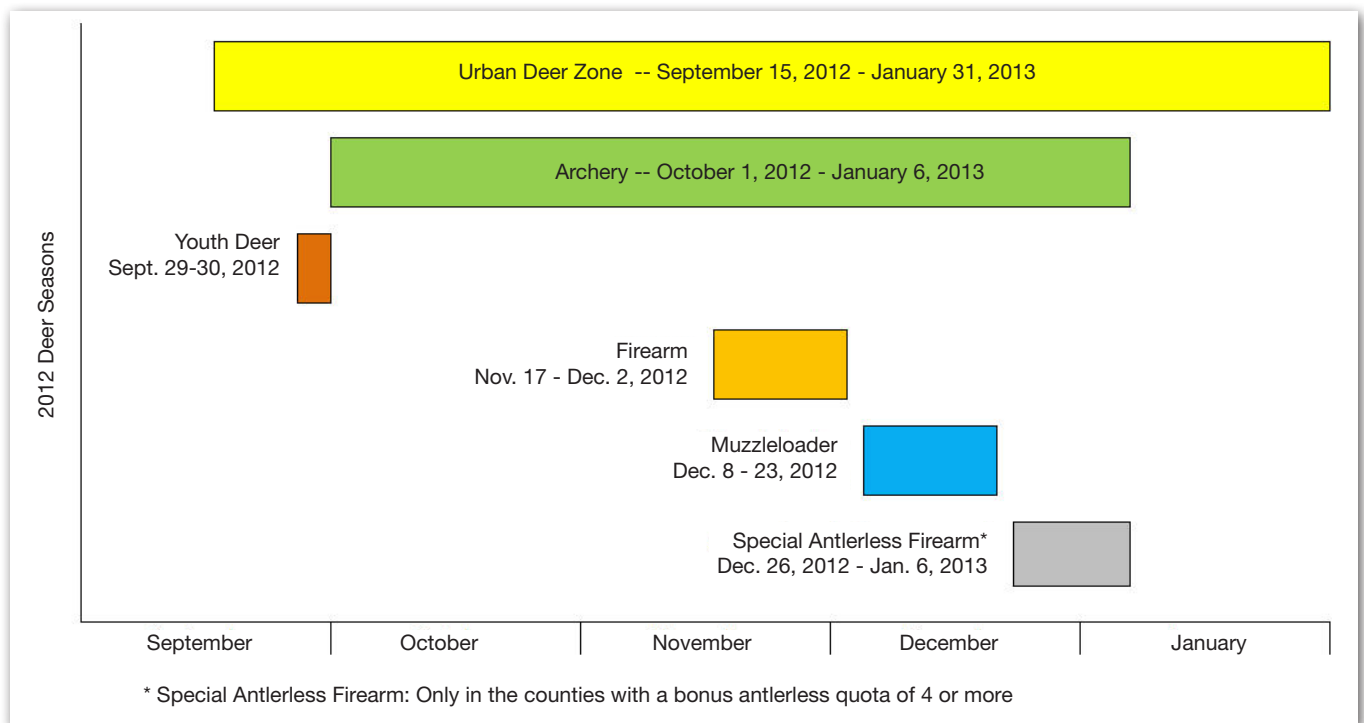


Figure 1. 2012 Deer Seasons

- **Urban deer zones**

Urban deer zones afford hunters with opportunities to harvest deer in defined urban deer zones, in addition to statewide bag limits.

 - The urban deer zone season is now continuous and extends from Sept. 15 through Jan. 31 (Figure 1).
 - A new urban deer zone license is available to purchase and allows an individual to harvest one deer per license in a defined urban deer zone. This urban deer license **replaces** previous requirements to possess an extra archery license, bonus antlerless, or regular archery license while attempting to satisfy urban deer zone bag limits. Hunters hunting in a designated Urban Deer Zone who are attempting to satisfy the urban deer zone bag limits, must have an urban deer zone license, resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license, or meet a license exemption.
 - Individuals hunting in a designated urban deer zone who are attempting to satisfy the urban deer zone bag limit, must harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer (a.k.a. earn-a-buck). The earn-a-buck requirement only applies to the urban deer zone bag limit. The bag limit for the urban deer zone is in addition to statewide bag limits for deer. The urban deer zone bag limit has

not changed and is still 4 antlerless deer, or 3 antlerless deer and 1 antlered deer.

- The urban deer zone in Lake and Porter counties has been extended to the entire county for each.

- **Deer license bundle**

- The deer license bundle is an option some hunters may find beneficial. This license type includes privileges to harvest 2 antlerless deer and 1 antlered deer. The resident deer license bundle is \$65, the nonresident deer license bundle is \$295, and the nonresident youth deer license bundle is \$65.
- The deer license bundle can be used during the following seasons: special youth deer, archery, firearm, muzzleloader, and special antlerless only. The deer license bundle cannot be used for hunting deer in an urban deer zone to satisfy urban deer zone bag limits.

- **Hunting Equipment**

- The maximum rifle cartridge length that can be used in the firearm season has been extended to 1.8 inches. This means that the .460 Smith & Wesson, .450 Bushmaster, and .50 Beowulf will be legal to use during the deer firearms season.
- Crossbows can now be used during the entire archery season, beginning Oct. 1 and continuing through the first Sunday in January. Crossbows can also be used during the urban deer zone season beginning Sept. 15 and continuing through Jan. 31.
- A crossbow means a device for propelling an arrow by means of traverse limbs mounted on a stock and a string and having a working safety that may be drawn, held, and released by a mechanical device. It has to have a mechanical safety and at least 125 lbs pull.
- A deer crossbow license will be required to hunt with a crossbow during the archery season, unless that individual has a valid resident youth hunt/trap, deer license bundle, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license, or is exempt from needing a license.
- A deer crossbow license is good for either one antlerless deer or one antlered deer. The bag limit for the archery season is 2 antlerless deer, or 1 antlered deer and 1 antlerless deer. Hunters are allowed to harvest only one deer per crossbow license.

- **Hunter Orange Requirements**

- A ground blind must have at least 144 square inches of hunter orange material that is visible from any direction while deer hunting during any season in which a hunter is already required to wear hunter orange.
- Youth hunters must wear hunter orange during the youth special deer season and all deer hunters must wear hunter orange during the new special antlerless only season; hunter orange is already required for all deer hunters during the firearms and muzzleloader seasons.

- **Military Reserves and National Wildlife Refuges**

- Military Reserves and National Wildlife Refuges can now schedule firearm deer hunts starting Oct. 1 and continuing until Dec. 31.
- Instead of having military/refuge deer licenses that were equipment specific (e.g., military/refuge deer firearm), there is now just one “military/refuge deer license,” which can be used with the equipment type that is allowed during a specific military/refuge deer hunt. A deer harvested with a military/refuge license does not count towards an individual’s statewide deer bag limit.
 - An individual may use an archery, firearms, or muzzleloader deer license on a military/refuge area, but must follow season dates and bag limits that apply to those licenses. For example, if a hunter uses a deer firearm license on a military/refuge area, the individual could only use the license to take an antlered deer during a military/refuge hunt that coincided with the regular deer firearm season. If a person chooses to use their deer firearm license on a military/refuge hunt, the harvested deer would count towards the hunter’s statewide deer bag limit.
- The military/refuge deer license privilege is included in the following license types: resident youth hunt/trap, lifetime comprehensive hunting, lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license.

- **Youth Deer Season**

Youth season hunters may now take the number of antlerless deer during this special season that is allowed by the bonus county quota. Youth hunters may still take an antlered deer during this season in addition to one or more antlerless deer, but an antlered deer harvested during the youth season counts towards their statewide bag limit of one antlered deer.