



Department of Environmental Conservation

A Landowner's
Guide to
**Controlling
Deer
Populations**



*An overview of the programs
available to help manage deer
populations in New York.
"antlerless harvest is the key"*

George E. Pataki, Governor
John P. Cahill, Commissioner

NY Deer Management Program Options

New York's deer hunting seasons span about two months. When taken advantage of, these seasons provide the means to manage deer populations. Successful management hinges on hunters being provided adequate access and, in turn, that hunters take sufficient numbers of antlerless deer, most importantly adult does. While the archery and muzzleloader seasons provide opportunities to take antlerless deer, and should be taken advantage of, the harvest of antlerless deer under the Deer Management Permit (DMP) program is the primary means to manage deer. The DMP program and two other programs designed to bolster management efforts or help alleviate deer damage problems are described below.

Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

To manage deer in LARGE geographic areas, Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), DURING deer hunting seasons.

Also called "Doe" or "Party" permits.

- ◆ Available in all of the Southern Zone and WMUs 6A and 6G in the Northern Zone.
- ◆ Applications available to hunters from License Issuing Agents.
- ◆ Taking by Licensed Hunters only.
- ◆ Availability of permits (permit quotas) set by DEC based on management needs in each Wildlife Management Unit.
- ◆ Permits valid the 1st Saturday after November 1 through the end of muzzleloader season in mid-December.
- ◆ For antlerless deer only.
- ◆ Up to 2 DMPs available per hunter, depending on permit quotas.
- ◆ DMPs valid for a specific Wildlife Management Unit.
- ◆ Hunters must report harvest to DEC.
- ◆ Free with Sportsman License, \$10 without.

Nuisance Deer Permits (NDPs)

To alleviate damage problems on individual properties WHILE damage is occurring.

Often called "Nuisance" or "Damage" permits.

- ◆ Available throughout the state.
- ◆ Applications available to landowners from DEC Wildlife offices.
- ◆ Taking by Permittee and Approved Agents only.
- ◆ Eligibility for permits is based on property damage and the lack of, or failure, of other practical alternatives to alleviate the problem.
- ◆ Permit may be limited to harassment techniques or allow the taking of deer.
- ◆ Permits generally are NOT available during an open deer hunting season.
- ◆ Usually for antlerless deer only.
- ◆ DEC issues tags to permittee for a limited number of deer.
- ◆ Permit activity limited to lands specified on the permit.
- ◆ Permittee must report all deer taken to DEC.
- ◆ No charge.

Deer Management Assistance Program permits (DMAPs)

To manage deer in SMALL geographic areas, individual properties or cooperatives, DURING deer hunting seasons.

Also called "D-Map" permits.

- ◆ Available throughout the state, in areas where existing laws (hunting opportunities) do not allow for adequate harvests.
- ◆ Applications available to landowners from DEC Wildlife offices.
- ◆ Taking by Licensed Hunters only.
- ◆ Eligibility for permits based on management needs due to crop, forest or other vegetation damage or custom deer management interests.
- ◆ Permits valid during all deer hunting seasons.
- ◆ For antlerless deer only.
- ◆ The number of DMAP tags issued is set based on acreage and damage.
- ◆ DMAP tags are valid ONLY on permittee's lands, or adjacent lands controlled by him/her.
- ◆ Tags are issued to the landowner who then passes them to licensed hunters.
- ◆ Limit of two DMAP tags per hunter.
- ◆ Permittees and hunters must report harvest to DEC.
- ◆ No charge.

Application Deadline

The first Friday after Labor Day.

Application Deadline

September 1st.

No Application Deadline

Permit issued when damage warrants it.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Bureau of Wildlife is responsible for deer management in New York State. Landowners and hunters actually carry out that management.

Q. What is the most efficient way to control deer numbers?

A. Regulated hunting remains the most efficient means to manage deer, with adequate harvests of antlerless deer being essential to successful efforts.

Q. How many antlerless deer should be removed?

A. It is hard to generalize, but harvest and other losses must exceed the number of fawns produced on the area if you want to reduce deer numbers.

If you have a sense for how many fawns are born each year on your lands, you have a valuable piece of information for setting harvest goals. More often, past harvests have to be reviewed to shed some light on productivity levels. On heavily hunted areas, the buck harvest provides a rough estimate of the male fawns produced on the area; a similar number of female fawns would also be born.

On heavily hunted areas, in much of the Southern Zone, taking about 7 or 8 adult does for every 10 antlered bucks harvested will tend to stabilize deer numbers. If you want to reduce deer numbers, more does need to be taken for a year or two. On areas with less hunting, or restricted buck harvest, more does per antlered buck would need to be taken to accomplish the same result.

Deer harvest rates needed to stabilize deer numbers vary around the state due to differences in habitat quality and mortality rates other than legal hunting. Your local DEC Wildlife office can

provide guide lines for your area.

Q. As a landowner, what can I do?

A. Like managing any resource, or controlling any nuisance problem, deer management requires forethought and planning. Knowing the management options available (see reverse) and the importance of antlerless harvest are key.

- Evaluate what is being done on your land. Are you allowing hunting? If not consider providing access to some hunters. If you allow hunting, get to know the hunters using your lands and their harvest tendencies. Hunters who are only interested in taking bucks do little to help control deer numbers.

- As the property owner you can control access and put conditions on those using your lands. Be sure hunters are aware of your deer management interests.

- If your goal is to reduce deer numbers, encourage antlerless harvest. Ask, or insist, hunters apply for and use Deer Management Permits. If the hunters currently hunting your lands are not willing to take antlerless deer, provide access to others that will.

- Finally, when standard hunting opportunities alone do not provide the means to adequately control deer numbers or problems, apply for Deer Management Assistance Program permits (DMAPs) or Nuisance Deer Permits (NDPs) as appropriate. (See reverse)

**For further information please contact your regional office or Wildlife Resources Center
Game Farm Road
Delmar, NY 12054**