2026-27 Deer Season and Rut Cheat Sheet

Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Free from Hunt Camp.

When the Rut Peaks Where You Hunt

The rut is when bucks are on their feet the most in daylight, and it does not hit everywhere at once. Across these four states it runs from late September on the Louisiana coast to early February in south Mississippi. Find your area below, then plan your best sits for the week before through the week after the peak, when bucks are searching and chasing.

Arkansas (AGFC)

Area	Peak Rut
West and South Arkansas	Oct 28 to Nov 21
East Arkansas (the Delta)	Nov 22 to Dec 14

Pre-rut runs about two weeks before the peak, when bucks are scraping and rubbing. South-central Arkansas camps often run a week or so later than the west.

Texas (TPWD, Peak Breeding by Region)

Region	Peak
Gulf Prairies and Marshes	North Sep 30, South Oct 31
Edwards Plateau (Hill Country)	East Nov 7, Central Nov 24, West Dec 5
Post Oak Savannah	Nov 10 to Nov 11
Pineywoods (East Texas)	South Nov 12, North Nov 22
Cross Timbers	Nov 15 to Nov 17
Rolling Plains	South Nov 20, North Dec 3
Trans-Pecos	Dec 8
South Texas Plains (Brush Country)	East Dec 16, West Dec 24

Mississippi (MDWFP Breeding Date Map)

Area	Breeding Dates
Delta (northwest, along the river)	Dec 7 to Dec 27
North Central Hills	Dec 14 to Jan 3
Central (Madison, Rankin, Hinds)	Dec 28 to Jan 3
Southwest	Jan 4 to Jan 10
Northeast and East Central	Jan 4 to Jan 24
Pine Belt (Jones, Forrest, Lamar)	Jan 18 to Jan 24
Coast and Far Southeast	Jan 25 to Feb 6

Louisiana (LDWF Breeding Map)

Area	Breeding Dates
Southwest Coast	Sep 26 to Nov 6
West Central (Vernon, Beauregard, Allen)	Oct 24 to Nov 20
Northwest (Caddo, Bossier, De Soto)	Nov 7 to Dec 4
North Central (Lincoln, Ouachita, Union)	Nov 21 to Dec 18
Northeast Delta (Madison, Tensas)	Dec 5 to Jan 1
Southeast Coast (Terrebonne, Lafourche)	Dec 5 to Jan 1
Florida Parishes and Atchafalaya	Dec 19 to Jan 29

Three Ways to Use the Rut

1. Sit longer. During the peak, bucks move at midday. If you can only take one long sit all season, make it a peak-rut day. **2. Hunt the doe areas.** Bucks go where the does are: bedding cover, food plots, and the trails between them. **3. Watch for a second rut.** Does that were missed come back into heat about 28 days after the peak, so do not hang it up early.

Rut dates are averages from each state's own biologists. Weather, moon, and your local deer herd can shift them a week either way, so your crew's own sightings are the best guide.

2026-27 Deer Season Dates

Firearm and archery dates. Every date includes the first and last day.

Arkansas

Season	Dates
Archery (statewide)	Sep 26 to Feb 28
Muzzleloader (most zones)	Oct 17 to Oct 25
Youth Modern Gun	Nov 7 to 8, Jan 2 to 3
Modern Gun opens	Nov 14, all zones
Christmas Hunt (Modern Gun)	Dec 26 to Dec 28

Modern Gun Closes	Zones
Nov 22	4, 5
Dec 6	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
Dec 13	4A, 5A, 14, 15
Dec 20	9, 12, 13
Dec 28	16, 16A, 17

Texas

Season	North Zone	South Zone
Archery Only	Oct 3 to Nov 6	Oct 3 to Nov 6
Youth, Early	Oct 30 to Nov 1	Oct 30 to Nov 1
General Season	Nov 7 to Jan 3	Nov 7 to Jan 17
Youth, Late	Jan 4 to Jan 17	Jan 4 to Jan 17
Special Late	Jan 4 to Jan 17	Jan 18 to Jan 31

Texas bag limits and antlerless days are set county by county.

Mississippi

Season	Dates
Archery	Oct 1 to Nov 20 (Southeast opens Oct 15)
Gun With Dogs	Nov 21 to Dec 1
Primitive Weapon	Dec 2 to Dec 15
Gun Without Dogs	Dec 16 to Dec 23
Gun With Dogs	Dec 24 to Jan 20
Archery and Primitive	Jan 21 to Jan 31

Legal bucks need a 10 inch inside spread or 13 inch main beam in the Hills (12 and 15 inches in the Delta).

Louisiana

Areas	Archery	Modern Firearms Opens
1, 4	Oct 1 to Jan 31	Nov 21
2 (north and northwest)	Oct 1 to Jan 31	Oct 31
3, 7, 8, 10	Sep 19 to Jan 15	Oct 17
5, 6, 9	Oct 1 to Feb 15	Nov 21

Louisiana splits modern firearms into still hunt and dogs-allowed weeks that differ by area. Check your area's full schedule.

Get Your Exact Dates on Your Phone, Free

Hunt Camp knows your zone from your lease map and shows your season dates, the rut for your area, the best hours to hunt by wind and moon, and what your crew is seeing, all in one place. Start free at gethuntcamp.com.

Sources: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (agfc.com), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (tpwd.texas.gov), Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (mdwfp.com, breeding date map of June 10, 2026), and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (wlf.louisiana.gov). Season dates checked October and November 2026. Regulations can change, so always confirm with your state agency before you hunt. Hunt Camp is a series of Burke Technologies LLC.