

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

# HUNTING SEASON

Hunter orange, also known as blaze orange is a very important color from late October into early December (see exact dates at the bottom of the notice). Hunters are not the only ones who should sport this fiery eye catching color. Anyone venturing into the woods, hikers especially, should wear at least one article of hunter orange coloring viewable from all directions such as a hat, jacket, or vest. Make sure not to forget about your pet! It is very easy to retrofit a dog with a vibrantly colored tee shirt. Simply arrange the shirt so the front legs go through the arm holes and the head through the collar, and you'll be doing your pet a great service.

There are also some items of clothing you should stay away from. Avoid wearing light brown, and especially avoid wearing white. A glimpse of white clothing through the trees can resemble a deer's tail. White mittens and hats are especially bad choices during hunting season.

You should not be afraid to venture out during hunting season. The cool air and lack of leaves in the late fall offers great views and few bugs, making hikes very enjoyable. Most hunters are familiar with the location of well known hiking trails so try to stay on established trails.

**DEER SEASON DATES:** there are four deer hunting seasons, as follows:

(a) Paraplegic season: this season is for the hunting of deer by paraplegics and is by permit only. The *MassWildlife* Director may select any 3 days for the season, beginning the last Monday in October and ending on the following Saturday.

(b) Archery season (Zones 01-14): this 6-week season begins on the sixth Monday prior to Thanksgiving and ends on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving.

(c) Shotgun season (Zones 01-14): this 12-day season begins on the Monday after Thanksgiving and ends on the second Saturday thereafter.

(d) Primitive firearms ("muzzleloader") season: this season begins on the third Monday after Thanksgiving (i.e., the Monday after the close of the 12-day shotgun season) and ends on December 31. Thus, there are a variable number of days in this season.

**HUNTING HOURS:** The hunting hours begin at ½ hour before sunrise and continue until ½ hour after sunset, except that on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant or quail seasons, the hunting hours are from sunrise to sunset.

**TURKEY FALL SEASON DATES:**

The 6-day fall turkey season begins on the last Monday in October and continues until the following Saturday.