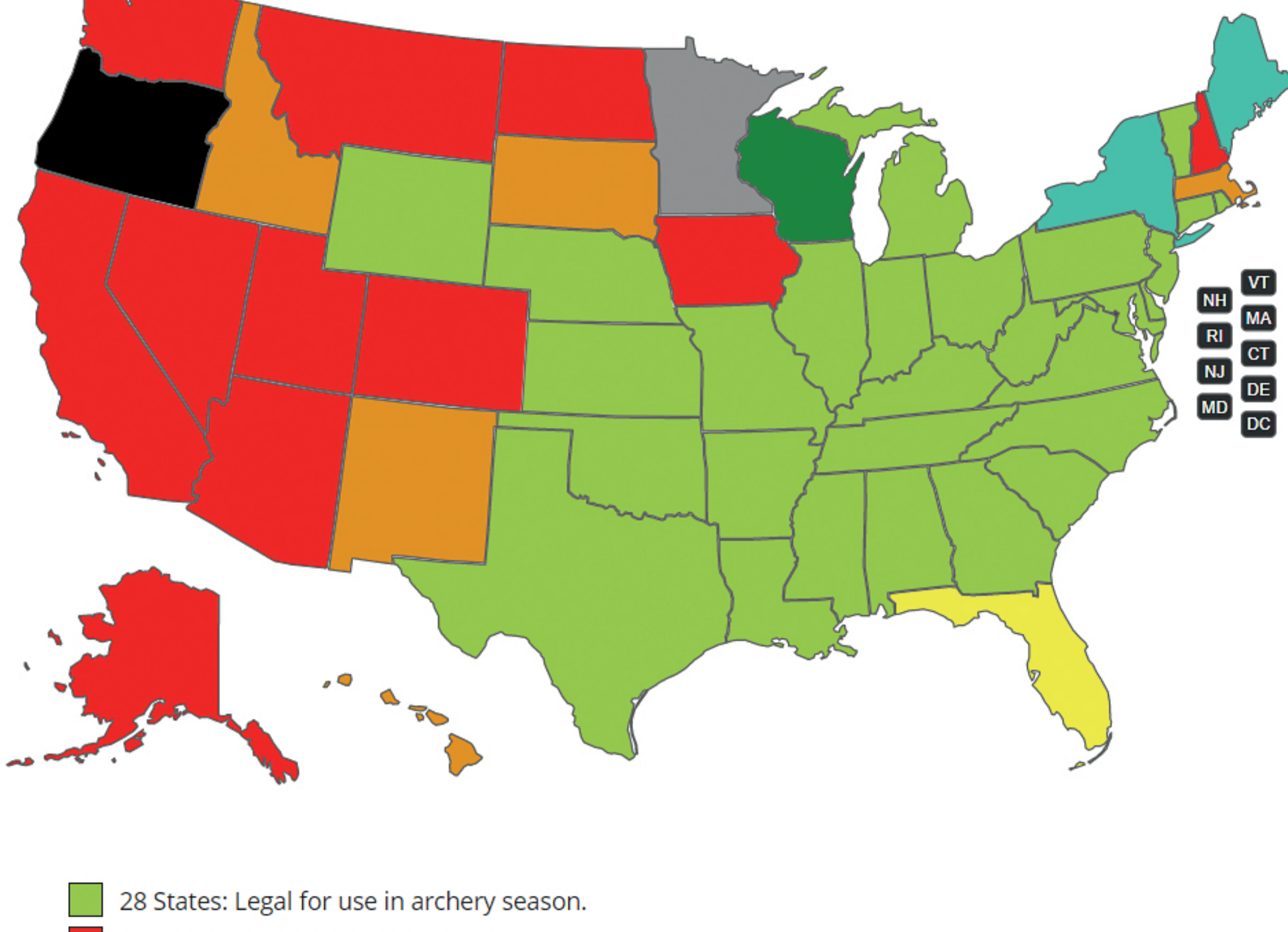


US CROSSBOW REGULATIONS



- 28 States: Legal for use in archery season.
- 11 States: Legal in firearm season.
- 5 States: Legal for physically challenged hunters during archery season.
- 2 States: Legal during a portion of archery season.
- 1 States: Legal for use in archery season-private land only (FL).
- 1 States: Legal for use in Archery Season beginning with 2014 season - will be reviewed again in August 2019.
- 1 States: Legal for hunters over a certain age. (60+ in MN)
- 1 States: Illegal hunting equipment.

Alabama

Crossbows legal for all persons during the entire deer hunting season. Magnified scopes are now allowed on crossbows only.

Alaska

Crossbows are illegal in bow-only areas, but can be used where guns and bows are legal weapons. Legal in archery season for handicapped hunters with an approved Methods and Means Exemption Form.

Arizona

Crossbows legal for handicapped hunters on a very restrictive permit basis, or for anyone during general firearms seasons.

Arkansas

Crossbows legal during archery seasons; must have minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and mechanical safety.

California

Crossbows legal for all hunters during gun seasons. Also, the California Game Commission voted on April 22, 2004 to adopt the following language to their regulations: "Any person with a physical disability which prevents him/her from being able to draw and hold a bow in a firing position, may use a crossbow or device which holds a string and arrow in the firing position to assist in the taking of birds and mammals under the conditions of an archery tag, archery season, or general session. Under these conditions, archers must provide to the Department and retain in his/her immediate possession while taking or attempting to take big game written verification of the disability, including: the person's name and signature, address, date of birth, driver's license or DMV number, physician's name and signature, physician's license number and address and a description of the disability."

Colorado

Crossbows legal for all hunters during gun seasons and for handicapped hunters during archery season.

Connecticut

Effective 2013 Fall seasons, crossbows will be legalized for all archery hunters.

Delaware

Crossbows legal during all deer seasons. Crossbows may be equipped with a scope. It is unlawful to transport a crossbow on or within any vehicle while the crossbow is in the cocked position. Deer may be hunted with crossbows provided hunter orange is displayed when it is also lawful to hunt deer with a gun.

Florida

August 30, 2010. Effective July 2011, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission passed a new rule which will extend zonal crossbow seasons by a month. The new rule adds 30 days to each crossbow season in zones A, B, and C, and adds 33 days in zone D, thereby coinciding with the archery season on private land only.

Georgia

Crossbows legal in all seasons starting 2003.

Hawaii

Crossbows legal by special disabled permit only.

Idaho

During an any-weapon hunting season you can hunt with a crossbow without any other permit besides your hunting license and proper tag. Crossbows also legal for handicapped persons by permit-to hunt with a crossbow during an archery season, you must also have a valid archery permit as well as a hunting license and a proper tag.

Illinois

Crossbows are legal during archery season

Indiana

Crossbows legal in entire archery season beginning December 31, 2011. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125-pounds and a mechanical safety.

Iowa

Crossbows are legal during the late Muzzleloader season. Also, Residents 70 and older may obtain one Antlerless-only statewide crossbow deer license.

Kansas

Crossbows legal for all hunters during archery deer seasons.

Kentucky

Legal in all of archery season. Deer archery season will open the 3rd Saturday in September and close on the 3rd Monday in January. Additionally, youth 16 and under, and 65+ will open on September 7th.

Louisiana

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission now has the ability to establish a bow and arrow only season, and a bow and arrow and crossbow season in special deer hunting seasons.

Maine

To be eligible to purchase a crossbow hunting permit, any person (16 years of age and older) must hold a valid license to hunt big game (either a big game hunting license or an archery license), and must submit proof of having successfully completed an archery hunting education course and a crossbow hunting course or evidence of having previously held adult archery and crossbow hunting permit issued specifically for the purpose of hunting with a crossbow or bow and arrow in this State or any other state, province or country in any year after 1979. When proof or evidence cannot be provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit. Also legal for disabled hunters.

Maryland

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service now allows crossbows to be used to hunt any game species during any open season where a vertical bow may be used (excluding waterfowl and certain furbearers). This would permit the use of a crossbow during the entire deer bow season in all counties. Minimum draw weight is 75-pounds, telescopic sights are permitted and the crossbow must have a working safety.

Massachusetts

Crossbows may be used by certain permanently handicapped persons by permit only.

Michigan

Anyone who is 10 years old or older can hunt with a crossbow during any season when a firearm is allowed, for big game or small game, except that hunters in the Upper Peninsula may not use a crossbow during the Dec. 1-Jan. 1 late archery season and Dec. 2-11 muzzleloader season, unless the hunter is disabled. Crossbow use is not allowed in the Red Oak Unit during the archery-only bear season (Oct. 7-13).

Minnesota

Crossbows legal for handicapped hunters by permit. Also legal for anyone during firearms season and Turkey and Bear seasons. Legal for 60+ for deer, bear, turkey and rough fish.

Mississippi

Effective July 1, 2013, crossbows are legal in all of Archery Season. Archer's are reminded that they are required to wear hunter orange during all gun seasons. The separate crossbow permit is no longer required.

Missouri

Crossbows are legal during Archery Deer & Turkey seasons.

Montana

Crossbows legal only during gun seasons. No provision for handicapped hunters.

Nebraska

Crossbows are legal archery equipment for big game (deer, antelope, elk, turkey & bighorn sheep). Beginning in 2014, big game hunters between the ages of 12 thru 29 must be certified in Bowhunter Education.

Nevada

Crossbows may only be used for hunting big game during an "Any Legal Weapon" hunt. Crossbows are not allowed for archery hunts. Crossbows must have a minimum 125-pound draw weight, minimum draw length of 14-inches from front of bow to nocking point, minimum 18-inch stock and a positive mechanical safety. Arrows must be minimum 16-inches and have a broadhead.

New Hampshire

Crossbows legal for handicapped hunters by permit. Legal for all hunters to take a deer in firearms season. Legal for all hunters on Long Island in Moultonborough with Long Island Deer Permit. Crossbow hunters must purchase a crossbow hunting permit.

New Jersey

Crossbows are legal in any bow and arrow hunting season and other hunting seasons for all species where the use of bow and arrow is allowed. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds and a minimum stock length of 25 inches.

New Mexico

Crossbow use is allowed by Certified Mobility Impaired Hunters during all hunts. Crossbows may now be used in "Any Legal Sporting Arm" or Muzzleloader" hunts unless otherwise restricted.

New York

Deer or Bear
South - November 1-14, 2014
North - October 15-24, 2014
Please check NY Hunting Regulations for additional information.

North Carolina

Effective August 1, 2010, allows the use of crossbows anytime bow and arrows are legal weapons. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 100-pounds.

North Dakota

Crossbows legal for handicapped hunters by permit.

Deer Gun & Youth Deer Seasons—Crossbows are legal during the deer gun season. Crossbows must: a) have a peak draw weight of 75 pounds and not more than 200 pounds, b) be equipped with a working safety to prevent accidental firing, c) have a stock at least 14 inches long, d) use bolts at least 14 inches in length.

Muzzleloader Season—Crossbows must: a) have a peak draw weight of 75 pounds and not more than 200 pounds, b) be equipped with a working safety to prevent accidental firing, c) have a stock at least 14 inches long, d) use bolts at least 14 inches in length. No magnification (1X) scopes are legal to use on crossbows during the muzzleloader season.

Ohio

Crossbow legal during archery season.

Oklahoma

Crossbows and conventional bows with draw lock devices are a legal means of hunting whenever conventional bows are allowed.

Oregon

Crossbows illegal.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners has approved the expanded lawful use of crossbows to include both the archery deer and bear seasons. The Board included a sunset date for the expanded crossbow use requiring a future vote on the measure again before June 30, 2012.

*The use of magnified scopes was approved on April 21, 2009.

Rhode Island

The crossbow is no longer classified as a firearm - it is now in the same classification as recurves, compounds and longbows. Crossbows are now Approved for use by all archery hunters during the Archery deer season provided the hunter has successfully completed the Bow Hunter education course or otherwise qualifies for an Archery deer permit.

The use of crossbow for hunting wild turkey or any wild bird is prohibited by law (RIGL 20-14-7).

Special permits are no longer required to hunt with the crossbow including those previously required for disabled hunters; however, use of Adaptive Aids for archery hunting still requires the special permit.

South Carolina

Archery equipment, is a cross bow, a long bow, a recurve bow, a compound bow, or a bow defined."

South Dakota

Crossbows legal for handicapped hunters during archery season. Must have a minimum draw weight of 125-pounds and a functional mechanical safety device.

Tennessee

The use of crossbows is now permitted during all seasons including the regular archery season.

Texas

Full-inclusion of crossbows in archery seasons except Grayson County.

Utah

The general-season any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer hunt runs from Oct. 18 to Oct. 26. If you obtained a general-season any legal weapon buck permit, you may use any legal weapon to take one buck deer in the hunting unit listed on your permit. 2014 is the first year you may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt. (You may not use them during the archery or muzzleloader hunts.)

Vermont

A crossbow may be used as a means of take by any person during any hunting season that permits the use of a bow and arrow.

Virginia

Crossbows are legal during the archery season and firearms season. A crossbow permit will be required if the season is "archery only".

Washington

Crossbows are legal for qualifying archers with a permanent non-operable upper extremity impairment. An application must be completed by a licensed Physician and submitted by the hunter to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for consideration. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125-pounds and a working safety. Retractable broadheads are not legal. Crossbows with a scope are legal during modern firearm season within "restricted areas".

West Virginia

Full-inclusion of crossbows in archery seasons except Logan, McDowell, Mingo, & Wyoming County. However, Class Y/YV holders may still use crossbows in these counties during the archery seasons.

Wisconsin

Legal in all of Archery Season - effective 2014 Seasons.

Wyoming

Crossbows legal during archery seasons; Must have 90-pound minimum draw weight, minimum draw length of 14-inches and shoot a minimum 16-inch bolt.

CANADA CROSSBOW REGULATIONS

- 9 Provinces: Legal for use in archery season.
- 3 Provinces: Illegal hunting equipment.
- 1 Provinces: Legal in firearm season.



Alberta

Crossbows legal for all seasons except archery-only. Legal in archery season for eligible handicapped hunters with a crossbow license. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 100-pounds.

British Columbia

Crossbows legal.

Manitoba

Crossbows may be used during muzzleloader deer seasons and big game rifle seasons. A hunter may not be in possession of a crossbow while hunting during archery or shotgun/muzzleloader seasons. A person hunting big game shall not be in possession of a crossbow requiring less than 150-pounds draw weight or an arrow using a broadhead less than 7/8 of an inch in width. Under the authority of a Disabled Crossbow permit, a permanently disabled archer may use a crossbow during an archery season.

New Brunswick

In New Brunswick crossbows may be used by certified hunters during all hunting seasons except for hunting migratory game birds.

Newfoundland

Crossbows are legal.

Northwest Territories

Crossbows legal.

Nova Scotia

Allows the use of crossbows in all hunting situations where conventional bows may be used, except the special open season for bowhunting deer. The crossbow must have a draw weight of 150lbs (68kg) or greater and bolts with heads more than 2.2 cm in diameter. Crossbow hunters must also wear hunter orange or camouflage orange garments.

Nunavut

Crossbows legal.

Ontario

Crossbows legal; Minimum 119-pound draw weight and 12-inch draw length for moose and bear, 100-pound draw weight and 12-inch draw length for deer.

Prince Edward Island

Legal for hunting all game species, except migratory birds. A Firearm Safety Certificate is required.

Quebec

Crossbows legal for handicapped hunters by special authorizations during bow season.

In 2008, most bow hunting seasons were replaced with crossbow and bow hunting seasons. Please consult the table of hunting seasons to find out these new terms and conditions. This new development does not apply to moose hunting in zones 13, 15, 16, 17 and 22 which have retained exclusive bow hunting seasons, except for certain wildlife sanctuaries, zecs and outfitter establishments with exclusive rights of these zones which had already replaced their bow hunting seasons with crossbow and bow hunting seasons.

Except in zones 17, 22, 23 and 24, hunting with a crossbow is always permitted during a firearm, a shotgun or a muzzle-loading firearm hunting period. In order to hunt with a crossbow, a resident must be the holder of a hunter's certificate bearing code A or B. Despite the information appearing on the back of the hunter's certificate, since 2007 code F no longer allows the holder to hunt with a crossbow.

Saskatchewan

Crossbows legal only during muzzleloader and rifle seasons, except in the Regina, Moosejaw, Saskatoon, Buckland and Prince Albert wildlife management zones where crossbows are permitted during all open seasons. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 150-pounds and broadheads must have a cutting diameter of 7/8 of an inch.

Yukon Territories

Crossbows illegal.