



2016 Mourning Dove Hunting Fact Sheet

The 2016 Nebraska dove season (mourning dove, Eurasian collared dove, and White-winged dove) starts on 1 September and runs through 30 October, with daily aggregate bag limits and possession limits of 15 and 45, respectively. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset. Resident dove hunters 16 years and older, and all non-resident hunters, are required to have a 2016 small game hunting license, a habitat stamp, and a 2016 Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number. HIP numbers are free and can be obtained by calling toll-free 1-877-634-8687, by registering on the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's website (<http://outdoornebraska.gov/hip/>), or at any Game & Parks district office. A federal migratory bird hunting stamp (i.e., duck stamp) is NOT required to hunt doves. Eurasian collared doves may also be harvested between 31 October and 31 August. Bag and possession limits during the collared dove season are 15 and 45, respectively.

Dove hunters are encouraged to look for leg bands on any doves they shoot this year. Biologists across the country have placed bands on thousands of doves in Nebraska and 25 other states this summer, and hunters can play a vital role in dove management by reporting any bands that they recover. Nebraska again will be cooperating with the US Fish & Wildlife Service in collecting mourning dove wings from hunters. Randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove they harvest during the first week of the season and mail them, postage free, to the USFWS.

Sunflower, millet, or wheat, which generally provide good dove-hunting opportunities, have been planted at the following Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), additional areas offering good hunting opportunities are also listed. However, planting and weather conditions might have reduced seed production in some plots. Public lands and lands open to public hunting through the Open Fields and Waters program can be found in our *Public Access Atlas* available online at: <https://maps.outdoornebraska.gov/PublicAccessAtlas/>. Pre-season scouting is essential no matter where you plan to hunt.

- North-central: *Bobcat* (7 acres [2 fields] milo and standing corn), *Calamus Reservoir* (30 acres sunflower-milo mix), *Myrtle Hall* (10 acres annual weeds, 5 acres sunflower-milo mix), *Davis Creek* (5 acres annual weeds)
- Northeast: *Oak Valley* (15 acres annual weeds, with sunflower, millet, and milo), *Wood Duck* (20 acres annual weeds with sunflower, millet, and milo), *Black Island* (5 acres wheat, annual weeds, and millet), *George Syas* (4 acres millet, 3 acres wheat), *Don Dworak* (3 acres millet), *Elk Point Bend* (40 acres annual weeds with millet, milo, and sunflower), *Wilkinson* (non-toxic shot only; 10 acres annual weeds)
- Southeast: *Schilling* (27 acres sunflower; North section closed 1-4 September for youth hunt), *Rake's Creek* (5 acres sunflower), *Tobacco Island* (15 acres sunflower), *Osage* (30 acres sunflower, 25 acres wheat stubble, scattered annual weeds), *Kansas Bend* (25 acres sunflower), *Wildwood* (8 acres [3 fields] sunflower), *Wagon Train* (5 acres [1 field] millet),

- Twin Lakes* (18 acres [2 fields] wheat stubble, 18 acres [5 fields] sunflower), *Branched Oak* (8 acres wheat, 39 acres small grain/annual weeds, 12.2 acres sunflower, 19.3 acres millet/annual weeds), *Pawnee* (10 acres [4 fields] sunflower), *Olive Creek* (2.5 acres milo, 1 acres winter rye, 2.5 acres annual weeds), *Helmuth* (4 acres sunflower, 2 acres milo; non-toxic shot only), *Little Salt Creek West* (4 acres sunflower, 3 acres wheat; non-toxic shot only), *Yankee Hill* (8 acres sunflower, 13 acres milo, 1.5 acres winter rye)
- Southwest: *Medicine Creek* (20 fields of wheat, 6-25 acres in size; marijuana plots in grazed pastures, 2-3 acres), *Swanson* (12 fields of wheat, 5-24 acres in size; marijuana plots in grazed pastures, 2-3 acres), *Red Willow* (marijuana plots in grazed pastures, 2-3 acres), *Enders* (6 fields of wheat, 5-20 acres in size), *Harold Anderson* (1 acre wheat), *Sherman Reservoir* (10 acres wheat), *Pressey* (3 acres wheat), *Leonard Koziol* (2 acres wheat), *Berggren Young* (100 acres early successional annual weeds), *Sacramento-Wilcox* (40 acres wheat stubble, 40 acres annual weeds), *Cornhusker* (120 acres milo, 100 acres annual weeds, 50 acres wheat stubble)
 - South-central: *Alexandria* (13 acres [2 fields] sunflower), *Alexandria SW* (13.6 acres [2 fields] sunflower), *Diamond Lake* (4.2 acres [1 field] sunflower), *Dry Sandy* (3 acres [1 field] sunflower), *Flathead* (4.2 acres [1 field] sunflower), *Little Blue* (3.3 acres [1 field] sunflower, 6.2 acres [2 fields] wheat stubble), *Meridian* (1.2 acres [1 field] sunflower), *Rose Creek* (4.3 acres [1 field] sunflower), *Rose Creek West* (5.1 acres [1 field] sunflower), *Sora* (68 acres [2 fields] wheat stubble)
 - Panhandle: *Arnold-Trupp* (2 acres millet), *Bordeaux Creek* (11 acres wheat, 5 acres millet), *Box Butte* (3 acres [3 fields] sorghum/millet, sunflower, annual weeds), *Nine Mile* (2 acres millet [2 fields]; 11 acre grass planting with annual weeds), *Buffalo Creek*, *Williams Gap*, *Chadron Creek*, and *Cedar Canyon* can also provide good hunting around ponds or water sites.

Other WMAs throughout the state can provide good dove hunting opportunities depending on local conditions. Contact the nearest Game & Parks district office for area-specific information, and remember to scout the area you plan to hunt.