



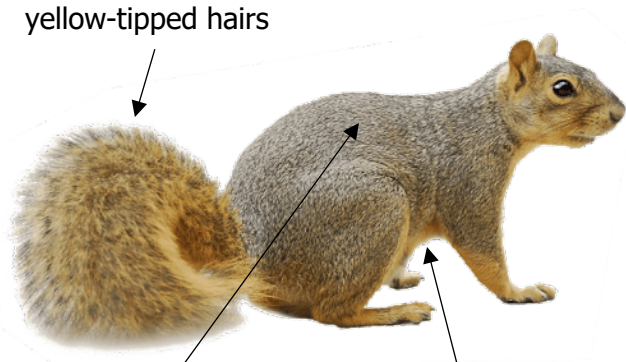
## NEBRASKA SQUIRREL HUNTING

### Beginners Guide to Squirrel Hunting

#### KNOW YOUR SQUIRRELS

##### FOX SQUIRREL

Large, bushy tail with yellow-tipped hairs

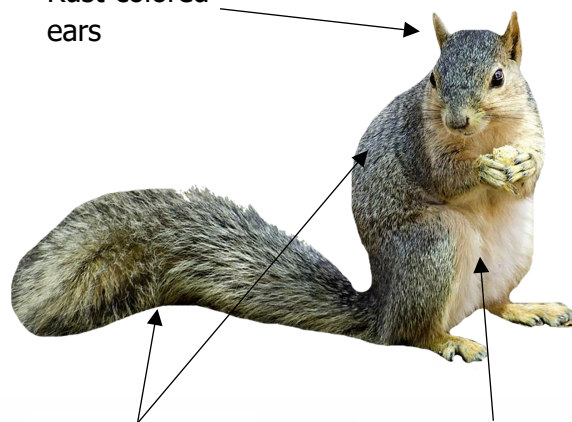


Grizzled, rusty brown fur on top

Bright rusty bellies

##### EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

Rust-colored ears



Mostly gray on top and tail

White or brownish bellies

Black-colored squirrels are a genetic aberration of the fox squirrel and eastern gray squirrel. These squirrels are legal to harvest in Nebraska and count towards your daily bag and possession limits.

#### SEASON DATES, BAG LIMITS AND MORE

- **Season Dates:** August 1 – January 31\*
- **Daily Bag/Possession Limits:** 7 daily/28 in aggregate
- **Shooting hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset
- **Open area:** statewide, but no hunting on all state refuges and sanctuaries
- **Regulations:** see current [Small Game & Waterfowl Guide](#) for additional regulations

\*Make sure to check season dates annually

#### FIND THE FOOD



Acorns



Walnuts



Hickory Nuts

## LICENSES AND PERMITS REQUIRED

### Resident

- Annual Hunt Permit (16 years and older): \$18
- Habitat Stamp (16 years and older): \$25
- No permit or stamp required for resident youth under 16

### Nonresident

- Annual Hunt Permit (16 years and older): \$109
- Annual Youth Hunt Permit (under 16): \$18
- Habitat stamp (all ages): \$25

## HUNTER EDUCATION

- Firearm Hunter Education required of all hunters, ages 12-29, to hunt squirrel with a firearm or air gun
- Proof of completion, permits and stamps must be carried while hunting
- For more information on hunter education visit [HuntSafeNebraska.org](http://HuntSafeNebraska.org)

### SQUIRREL GEAR CHECKLIST: MUST HAVES

- Shotgun (12, 16, 20 28 gauge or .410 bore), air gun or rimfire rifle (.22 or .17 caliber)
- Ammunition (#7 ½ to #5 shot size or caliber-specific rimfire cartridges)
- Knife

### SQUIRREL GEAR CHECKLIST: NICE TO HAVE

- Camo Clothing
- Boots
- Squirrel call
- Game bag/paracord small game carrier
- Rubber gloves for field dressing
- Binoculars
- Headlamp/flashlight

## FOX SQUIRREL

## EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

### SQUIRREL HABITAT, FOOD AND HABITS

- **Habitat:** Deciduous or hardwood trees. Prefer open canopy of shelterbelts, woodlots and trees, and along the banks of streams, lakes and ponds
- **Food:** Acorns, walnuts, and hickory nuts. Will also eat crops, seeds, fruits, roots, vegetables and animal parts
- **Habits:** Active only during daylight hours throughout the year. Peak activity in the early morning and late afternoon. Most active in Sept. and Oct. burying food for the winter and Dec. and Jan. during the second breeding season.
- **Habitat:** Mature deciduous or hardwood trees with dense understories. Prefer closed canopy, nut-bearing trees and cavity trees
- **Food:** Acorns, walnuts, and hickory nuts. Will also eat crops, seeds, fruits, roots, vegetables and animal parts
- **Habits:** Active only during daylight hours throughout the year. Peak activity in the early morning and late afternoon

### WHERE TO FIND SQUIRRELS

- Found nearly everywhere in Nebraska except the treeless expansions of the Sandhills, Panhandle and the southwest
- Found along the Missouri River bluffs in southeastern Nebraska