

Hunting seasons, bag limits set for 1980-81 sportsmen

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's hunters will be returning to the traditional four-week small game hunting season this year and generally follow established patterns in other seasons and bag limits under dates established this week by the Game Commission.

This year's regular fall archery deer season will open on Saturday, October 4; the early small game season will start on Saturday, October 18; and the four-week general small game season will begin on Saturday, November 1.

The regular two-week antlered deer season will open on Monday, December 1; the two-day statewide antlerless deer season will be held on Monday and Tuesday, December 15 and 16; and the winter small game and archery and flintlock deer seasons will begin on December 26.

One day for hunting bears has been scheduled for Monday, November 24, in 29 counties.

Only one change of significance was made from earlier proposals for the upcoming hunting license

year. The season for raccoons and furbearers as originally envisioned would have been split, starting in October and concluding six days later, then resuming in November.

Because of concern for "blue" or unprime pelts in juvenile raccoons in October, the Game Commission eliminated the early opening, and established a single season for taking of raccoons, skunks, opossums, coyotes and weasels, opening November 5 and concluding January 31.

The fox trapping season will also open November 5 and close on January 31, but the fox hunting season will begin on November 5 and conclude on February 28.

The 410,600 antlerless deer licenses proposed earlier have been authorized for issuance. It is hoped that this allocation will result in a reported antlerless deer harvest of about 60,000 whitetails.

For the first time this year, hunters will be permitted to harvest bears of all ages. Earlier, the Game Commission had proposed that hunters be permitted to take bears under one year of age, a class of bears that was previously protected.

Originally, the Game Commission had proposed a five-beaver limit in seven counties (Bradford, Crawford, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wayne).

High population levels and serious nuisance and damage problems have led to including Erie County in the list of those where five beavers may be taken.

The Game Commission has reserved the right to extend the fall turkey, the antlerless deer and the beaver seasons.

Snap beans make snappy yield under no-till

UNIVERSITY PARK — Farmers can produce high yields of certain vegetables without plowing or otherwise tilling the soil, experiments at Penn State indicate.

This no-tillage farming seems to work best with short-season crops such as snap beans with vine crops and other vegetables that compete vigorously with weeds, says Doyle W. Grenoble of the Department of Horticulture at the University.

"Our experiments showed that snap beans gave the highest yields of any vegetable we tested under no-tillage conditions," Grenoble stated recently. "Yields of no-till snap beans were nearly double those on land plowed or disked," he added.

The advantages of either minimum or no-tillage soil treatment for vegetable crops include the chances for early planting and better harvesting conditions on wet

soils, savings of time and energy, and less soil erosion, Grenoble pointed out.

No-tillage planting was compared with use of a moldboard plow, chisel plow, and heavy disk. Where the plots were tilled, each plow or disk was followed by one cultivation with a power-driven rotary harrow.

Wheat straw residue made yields of potatoes and sweet corn equal to yields with conventional tillage. Without the mulch, yields of sweet corn and potatoes decreased for no-till crops.

Muskmelon yields from no-tillage soil were equal to those from tillage methods.

Grenoble suggested that vegetable growers try no-tillage cropping on a limited basis. For farmers, this could include a rotation of tillage methods, as with other crops, perhaps using a

moldboard plow one year, a chisel plow the next year, and no-tillage management the third season.

Tomato yields decreased with no-tillage in the Penn State experiments. The trial evaluated tomatoes seeded directly into fields, a technique used in commercial production. However, as at Penn State, land can be too wet for direct seeding and the second year trials were not planted.



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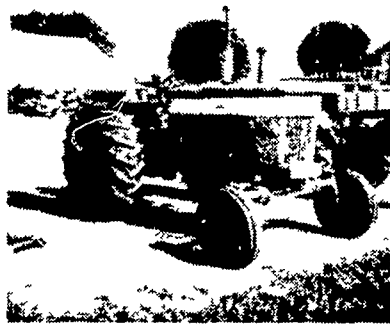
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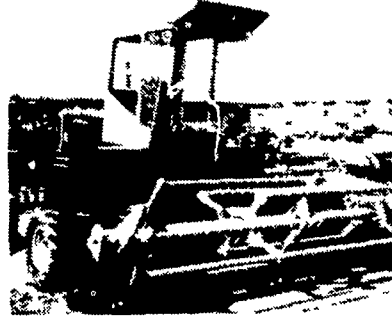
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