



dcr 2018 QUABBIN DEER HUNT

Massachusetts

2018 HUNT SNAPSHOT:

The 2018 Quabbin Deer hunt took place on December 6th and 7th 2018. Only the Hunt Zones with an estimated deer density above 15 deer/mi² were hunted in 2018.

850 hunters applied to hunt the Petersham and Hardwick Zones.

- 458 hunters were selected (54%)
- An average of 40% of those hunters participated in pre-hunt scouting on November 17th and 18th.
- 70% of the hunters showed up the first day of the hunt (Dec 6th)
 - Spent avg. of 9 hours hunting
- 40% of hunters showed up for the second day of the hunt (Dec 7th)
 - Spent avg. of 7.5 hours hunting

DEER HARVEST:

- A total 275 antlerless permits were awarded to hunters (60% of hunters)
- **35 deer** were harvested over the two-day hunt
25 bucks/ 10 does
- Dec 6th: 28 deer (20 bucks/ 8 does)
- Dec 7th: 7 deer (5 bucks/2 does)

The largest deer taken in Hardwick was 173.5 lbs., 8-points

The largest deer taken in Petersham was 153 lbs., 8 points.

12,600 acres (19.7 mi²) were hunted in 2018

Quabbin Hunter Success rate was 12% in 2018. The statewide average is about 10%.

Deer harvest was 71% male.

DEER DENSITY ESTIMATE:

Deer densities sustained at levels above 20 deer/mi² can lead to concerns about forest regeneration and tree species composition.

- Hardwick: 19.6 deer/mi²
- Petersham: 20.7 deer/mi²

Estimates were calculated by a pellet-group transect survey in 2016-2017.

