

WATERFOWL GUIDE

2011

Season Information for:

Early Teal

Duck and Goose

Light Goose Conservation Order



NEBRASKA
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OutdoorNebraska.org

Duck Identification (more on inside back cover)



Blue-Winged Teal



Green-Winged Teal



Wood Duck



Northern Shoveler



Gadwall



Northern Pintail

NEW FOR 2011

- There is no early Canada goose season in 2011. (See page 10)
- Boundary changes for duck zones and dark goose units. (See pages 8 and 10)

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

PERMITS AND STAMPS

Nebraska residents 16 years of age and older and all nonresidents regardless of age who hunt waterfowl in Nebraska are required to have:

- A current Nebraska Hunting Permit — Residents - \$14; Nonresidents - \$81
- A Nebraska Habitat Stamp — \$20
- A Nebraska Waterfowl Stamp — \$5
- A Federal Migratory Bird Stamp (Duck Stamp), which can be purchased from U.S. Post Offices and is valid through June 30, 2012
- A current HIP registration number, only Nebraska residents under 16 years of age are exempt

HUNTER EDUCATION

Required for all hunters ages 12 through 29:

- Hunting with either a firearm or archery equipment must have on their person proof of successful completion of Firearm Hunter Education.
- Hunting big game with archery equipment must carry proof of successful completion of Bow Hunter Education.
- Who have not completed a Firearm Hunter and/or Bow Hunter Education course may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate from Game and Parks.

HUNTER EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate provides the novice hunter age 12 and older an opportunity to try hunting and receive training from an experienced hunter before completing Hunter Education. A hunter using this certificate must be accompanied* at all times while hunting. This certificate may be obtained once in each person's lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 and may be renewed once. The fee is \$5.

*Accompanied is defined as: in the presence of a licensed "experienced" hunter age 19 or older. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the "experienced" hunter at any time and the "experienced" hunter must at all times be in unaided visual and verbal communication with the child under age 12 and/or the "apprentice" hunter ages 12 through 29. The "experienced" hunter must, if age 19-29, be certified in hunter education.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

Anyone planning to hunt doves, ducks, geese, snipe, rail, coot or woodcock between Aug. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, must register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting – even if they registered for the 2010 hunting seasons. The goal of the program is to help state and federal wildlife managers estimate the number of migratory birds harvested each year. The estimates will help biologists set limits and seasons.

Residents, nonresidents – even those already registered in another state – lifetime permit holders, veterans and over 70, fee-exempt permit holders must register. Registration is free. Hunters may register 24 hours a day at OutdoorNebraska.org, nehip.com or calling by 877-634-8687.

Nebraska Hunting Permits and stamps are available from Game and Parks offices and permit agents across the state, as well as at OutdoorNebraska.org.

For more on residency requirements and reduced price senior and veteran permits, visit OutdoorNebraska.org.

OTHER REGULATION INFORMATION

Methods of Take: Only archery equipment and shotguns 10 gauge or smaller may be used. For migratory birds, shotguns must be plugged so the combined capacity of the chamber and magazine is no more than three shells. Rifles and crossbows cannot be used to hunt migratory birds. Electronic calls are prohibited for all waterfowl hunting during the fall seasons. Electronic calls can be used for crows.

Transporting Game: All migratory birds except doves must have one fully feathered wing or head plumage attached when in transport. Visit OutdoorNebraska.org for additional rules about game being transported by someone other than the owner or by a commercial carrier.

Nontoxic Shot: It is unlawful to use or possess shotgun shells loaded with or containing shot other than nontoxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take waterfowl. Nontoxic shot is required for all shotgun hunting on federal waterfowl production areas and national wildlife refuges and, as posted, some state wildlife management areas. For the latest legal shot types, check the waterfowl section at OutdoorNebraska.org.

Legal Nontoxic Shot	
Bismuth-tin	Tungsten-matrix
Iron (steel)	Tungsten-polymer
Iron-tungsten	Tungsten-tin-iron
Iron-tungsten-nickel	Tungsten-tin-bismuth
Tungsten-bronze	Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel	Tungsten-iron-polymer

Wanton Waste: Hunters must ensure that all game is used to its fullest potential. Persons found guilty of wasting game birds will pay a fine and liquidated damages of \$75 per bird.

Waterfowl Blinds: All blinds must be removed daily from Game and Parks state recreation areas (SRA) and wildlife management areas (WMA), except that seasonal blinds may be built on the WMA portions of Calamus, Elwood, Enders (the nonrefuge portion), Lewis and Clark, Lake McConaughy, Medicine Creek, Merritt, Red Willow, Sherman, and Swanson. Such blinds must be removed at the end of the waterfowl season.

Use of these blinds is on a first-come, first-served basis, except at Lewis and Clark. A special permit is required and different regulations apply for blinds on Lewis and Clark. Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 402-667-7873, ext. 3245 or 3247.

LEG BANDS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg bands recovered from birds may be reported at www.reportband.gov or by calling 800-327-2263.

HUNTING ON STATE RECREATION AREAS

Hunting is permitted on many state recreation areas from the first Tuesday following Labor Day through conclusion of the spring turkey season, unless prohibited or restricted by appropriate signs or specific area regulations.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REGULATIONS

For a summary, visit: outdoornebraska.ne.gov/hunting/pdf/usfws_regs.pdf

For complete regulations visit: fws.gov/hunting/

NOTICE: This guide is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed guide issued for hunters' convenience. You can find a complete copy of the regulations at OutdoorNebraska.org.

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EARLY TEAL SEASON

Low Plains — Sept. 3-18

High Plains — Sept. 10-18

Daily Bag Limit: 4 in aggregate (Blue-, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal)

Possession Bag Limit: 8

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Helpful Teal Hunting Tips:

- Blue-winged teal have blue patches on the upper surface of their wings. Shovelers also have blue patches on their wings, but have an enlarged bill and are larger in size.
- Teal tend to fly in tight, compact flocks. Their flight is rapid and appears erratic.
- Female teal have a raspy, rapid call while males have a single note “whistle.”
- Teal will readily decoy, so use them to bring birds in closer to aid in identification. Pass shooting is not recommended.
- Teal prefer shallow waters, such as those commonly found in the Rainwater Basin area and along shallow margins of ponds, lakes and reservoirs.
- Look for areas with lots of mud flats and sparse vegetation.

Contact the nearest Game and Parks office or visit OutdoorNebraska.org for information regarding hunting on state recreation areas during this season.

TEAL ZONES



DUCK SEASONS

Low Plains Early — Oct. 8 - Dec. 18 and Dec. 23-24

Low Plains Late — Oct. 15-16 and Oct. 22 - Jan. 1, 2012

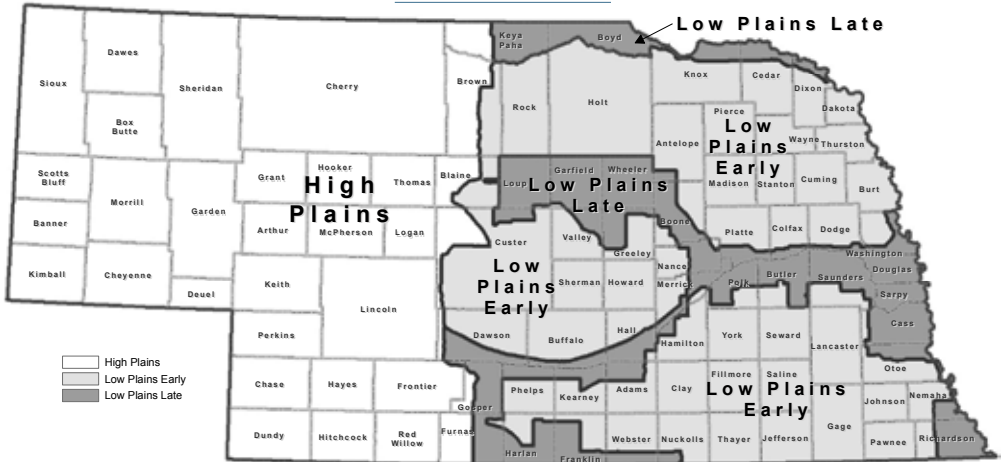
High Plains — Oct. 8 - Jan. 11, 2012

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Daily Bag/Possession Limits: Six ducks. May include no more than five mallards (of which no more than two can be hens), three wood ducks, two redheads, two scaup (lesser or greater), one canvasback, and two pintails. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Merganser Bag/Possession Limits: The daily bag for mergansers is five, which may include no more than two hooded mergansers. Mergansers do not count toward the daily bag and possession limits for other ducks. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

DUCK ZONES



Detailed map on page 8.

Become a Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor

*Are you interested in making a difference?
Get involved – volunteer.*

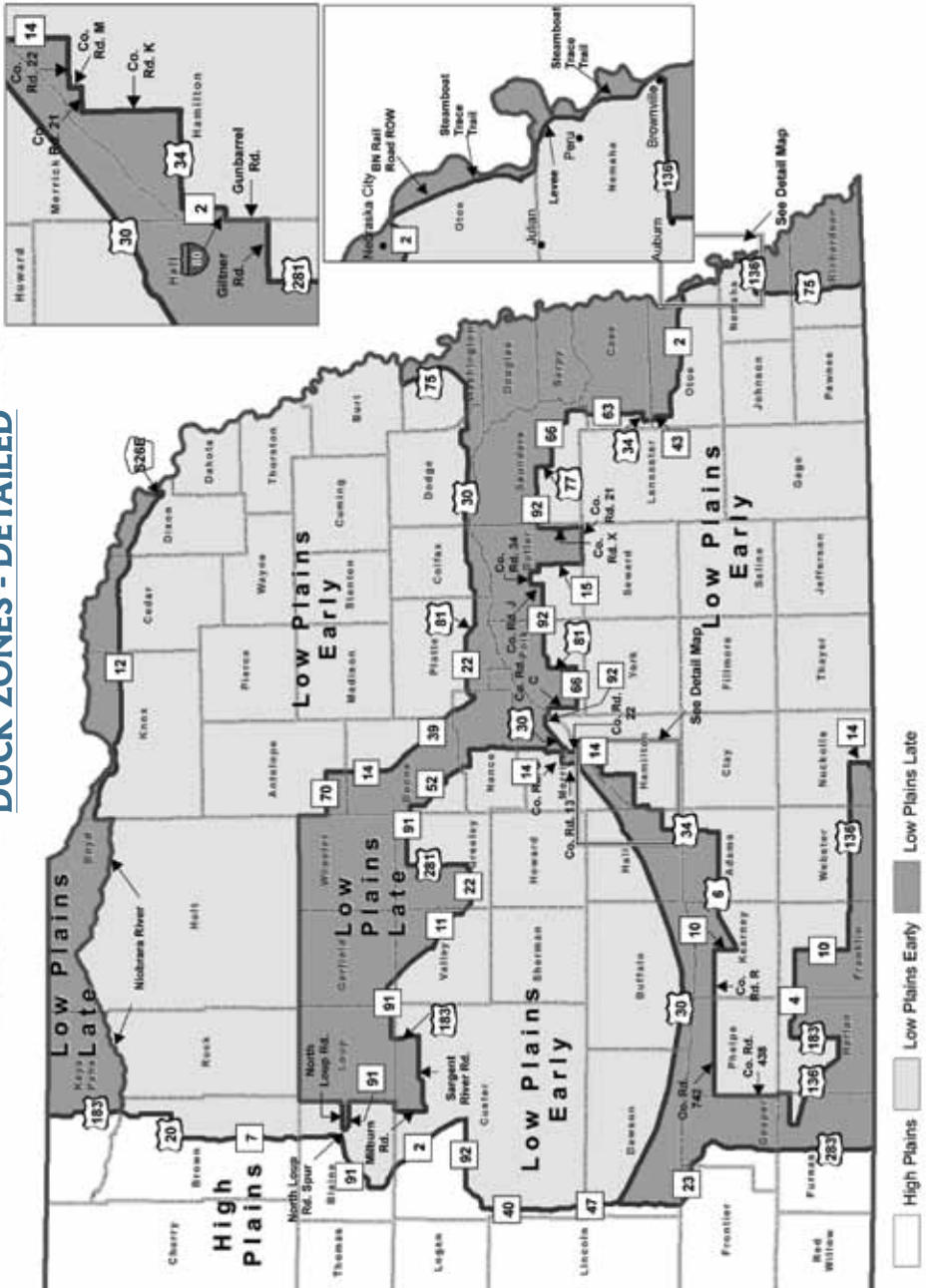
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See You Out There

To learn more, contact Mike Streeter at
mike.streeter@nebraska.gov
or 402-471-6134



DUCK ZONES - DETAILED



YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON

Statewide: Oct. 1-2

Bag and Possession Limits: Same as regular season

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Youth Waterfowl Regulations:

- The season is open for ducks, mergansers, coots and geese.
- Nonresident youths must have required permits.
- Youths age 11 or younger must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older. The accompanying adult may not hunt waterfowl.
- Youths ages 12 to 15 are required to carry a Hunter Education certification card while hunting and must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years old. The adult does not need to be a licensed hunter.

EARLY CANADA GOOSE SEASON

There is no early Canada goose season in 2011.

In 2004, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission implemented a September season to reduce the resident Canada goose population in the Lincoln and Omaha areas. Concern over the number of nuisance complaints and the continued growth of the goose population was the primary motivation behind the season. Recent banding analysis has shown, however, that the September season was not successful in reducing the population of resident geese. The early Canada goose season was suspended because the nine days used for the September season came at the expense of regular Canada goose season days when more people could hunt geese.

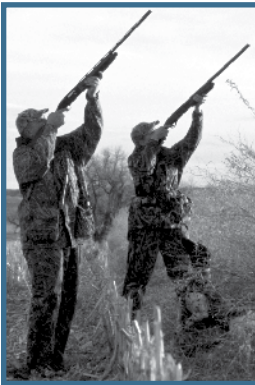
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE SEASON

Statewide: Oct. 8 - Dec. 18 and Feb. 4-5, 2012

Daily Bag Limit: 2 (1 in February)

Possession Limit: 4 (2 in February)

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.



Who taught you?

Sometime in the past, someone gave you a great gift: they taught you how to hunt or fish.

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teaching someone else.**

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LIGHT GOOSE REGULAR SEASON

Statewide: Oct. 8 - Jan. 4, 2012, and Jan. 21. - Feb. 5, 2012

Daily Bag Limit: 20

Possession Limit: None

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Equipment Restrictions: The use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls IS NOT ALLOWED while hunting light geese or any other waterfowl during this season.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

Zone 1: Feb. 6 - April 15, 2012

Zone 2: Feb. 6 - April 1, 2012

Zone 3: Feb. 6 - April 15, 2012

Daily Bag and Possession Limit: None

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Equipment Restrictions: The use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls IS ALLOWED while hunting light geese during the conservation order.

During the Light Goose Conservation Order, hunting will be allowed statewide with the exception of several state wildlife management areas and federal waterfowl production areas in the Rainwater Basin region of central Nebraska. Hunting will be limited to four days per week (Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday) in the region.

Zone Restrictions

White and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese may be taken statewide during the conservation action, but different regulations apply in each zone. In Zones 1 and 2, hunting will be allowed four days a week (Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Beginning March 24, hunting will be allowed seven days a week.

Zone 1

It is illegal:

- to hunt within a half-mile of the outer channel of the Platte River between U.S. Highway 281 and Nebraska Highway 14.
- to hunt on federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless authorized, and on the following lands owned or managed by Game and Parks or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Zone 1 Closed Areas:

- Massie WPA
- Hultine WPA
- Springer WPA
- Wilkins WPA
- Bluebill WPA
- Verona WPA
- Pintail WMA
- Eckhardt WPA
- Nelson WPA
- Kirkpatrick Basin North WMA
- Swan Creek WMA

Zone 2

It is illegal:

- to hunt light geese within a half-mile of the outer channel of the Platte River between Feb. 6 and March 10. The no-hunting zone expands to 3 miles between March 11 and April 1 to provide protection for endangered whooping cranes.
- to hunt on federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless authorized, and on the following lands owned or managed by Game and Parks or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Zone 2 Closed Areas:

- Funk WPA
- Prairie Dog WPA
- Bluestem WPA
- Lindau WPA
- Clark WPA

Zone 3 (the conservation order will be open seven days a week)

It is illegal:

- to hunt light geese within 3 miles of the outside channel of the Platte River between U.S. Highway 283 and U.S. Highway 281 between March 11 and April 15.
- to hunt light geese on federal or state sanctuaries and refuges unless otherwise authorized.

STATUS OF SNOW GOOSE POPULATIONS

Much effort has been put toward reducing the mid-continent population of snow geese. This population attracts attention because of the damage to Arctic habitats it has caused.

The use of methods to increase harvest has resulted in more than 1 million snow geese being harvested each year since 1998, with nearly 1.5 million taken in 1999. It is still estimated that 1.4 million snow geese would have to be harvested annually to reduce the population.

This high annual harvest rate is difficult to achieve because snow geese have proven to be very adaptable by reacting to various hunting tactics and using new or different habitats in the North.

Have all of the efforts helped?

Surveys conducted from 1979 to 1999 show the population growing at a rate of 5 percent per year. In 2009, the survey indicated the population slightly declined or remained stable. It still may be too early to assess the success of the reduction efforts. It appears the increased hunting pressure has assisted in curbing snow goose population growth.

The success of the liberal hunting seasons and conservation action will be determined by the end of the damage and subsequent recovery of Arctic habitats.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATION

Lincoln

Ted Blume • 402-471-5531

Craig Stover • 402-471-5532

NORTHWEST

Alliance

Jim Zimmerman (S)

308-763-2940

Greg Hesse • 308-760-3647

Gering

Scott Brandt • 308-631-0663

Gordon

Heath Packett • 308-360-0682

Harrison

Dan Kling • 308-430-0572

Valentine

Frank Miller • 402-389-0444

NORTHEAST

Bassett

Dale Davis • 402-760-0712

Columbus

Steve Oberg • 402-910-3366

Fremont

Daniel Roberts • 402-719-1108

Fullerton

Randy Pomplun • 308-550-0489

Hartington

Jeff Jones • 402-762-5022

Kennard

Jon Reeves • 402-889-8508

Norfolk

Tom Zimmer (S) • 402-370-3374

Neligh

Tim Williams • 402-929-0051

O'Neill

Patrick George • 402-340-0787

Ord

Doug Pollard • 308-778-7101

West Point

Cory Krause • 402-380-6410

SOUTHWEST

Broken Bow

Ray Dierking • 308-870-0322

Cozad

Michael Thome • 308-529-8146

Doniphan

Terry Brentzel • 402-469-5795

Elwood

Matt Andrews • 308-746-2418

Imperial

Dirk Greene • 308-882-0015

Kearney

Jerry Pecha (S) • 308-865-5327

Dale Johnson • 308-440-3847

North Platte

Roger Thompson (S)

308-535-8025

Dudley Sorensen • 308-530-0016

Ogallala

Dennis Thompson • 308-289-0755

Nicholas Fix • 308-289-0427

Republican City

Rich Routh • 308-920-0367

SOUTHEAST

Ashland

Sean McKeehan • 402-521-0159

Auburn

William Krause • 402-274-8063

Colon

Mike Luben • 402-443-6392

Cortland

Dan Zuehlke • 402-806-9084

Gretna

Duane Arp (S) • 402-332-2965

Hebron

Darin Gress • 402-768-8665

Lincoln

Douglas Kramer • 402-890-6465

Dina Barta • 402-890-6463

Stacey Lewton • 402-890-7140

Louisville

Levi Krause • 402-949-0593

Milford

Robert Finke • 402-947-1363

Nebraska City

Russell Mort • 402-209-1506

Papillion

Dan Evasco • 402-616-5961

Valley

Jeff Clauson • 402-658-7057

(S) Denotes area supervisor

Duck Identification (more on inside front cover)



Lincoln Sunrise/Sunset Schedule

September October November December January

Day	September		October		November		December		January	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	6:53	7:59	7:23	7:09	6:23	7:31	5:00	7:51	5:09	7:51
2	6:54	7:58	7:24	7:07	6:22	7:32	5:00	7:51	5:10	7:51
3	6:55	7:56	7:25	7:06	6:21	7:33	4:59	7:51	5:11	7:51
4	6:56	7:54	7:26	7:04	6:20	7:34	4:59	7:51	5:12	7:51
5	6:57	7:53	7:27	7:02	6:18	7:35	4:59	7:51	5:13	7:51
6	6:58	7:51	7:28	7:01	6:17	7:36	4:59	7:51	5:14	7:51
7	6:59	7:50	7:29	6:59	6:16	7:37	4:59	7:51	5:15	7:51
8	7:00	7:48	7:30	6:58	6:15	7:38	4:59	7:51	5:16	7:51
9	7:01	7:46	7:31	6:56	6:14	7:39	4:59	7:51	5:17	7:51
10	7:02	7:45	7:32	6:54	6:13	7:40	4:59	7:51	5:18	7:51
11	7:03	7:43	7:33	6:53	6:12	7:41	4:59	7:50	5:19	7:50
12	7:04	7:41	7:34	6:51	6:11	7:41	4:59	7:50	5:20	7:50
13	7:05	7:39	7:36	6:50	6:10	7:42	4:59	7:50	5:21	7:50
14	7:06	7:38	7:37	6:48	6:09	7:43	5:00	7:49	5:22	7:49
15	7:07	7:36	7:38	6:47	6:08	7:44	5:00	7:49	5:23	7:49
16	7:08	7:34	7:39	6:45	6:07	7:44	5:00	7:49	5:24	7:49
17	7:09	7:33	7:40	6:44	6:06	7:45	5:00	7:48	5:26	7:48
18	7:10	7:31	7:41	6:42	6:06	7:46	5:01	7:48	5:27	7:48
19	7:11	7:29	7:42	6:41	6:06	7:46	5:01	7:47	5:28	7:47
20	7:12	7:28	7:43	6:39	6:05	7:47	5:02	7:47	5:29	7:47
21	7:13	7:26	7:44	6:38	6:04	7:47	5:02	7:46	5:30	7:46
22	7:14	7:24	7:45	6:36	6:04	7:48	5:03	7:45	5:31	7:45
23	7:15	7:22	7:47	6:35	6:03	7:48	5:03	7:45	5:33	7:45
24	7:16	7:21	7:48	6:34	6:03	7:49	5:04	7:44	5:34	7:44
25	7:17	7:19	7:49	6:32	6:02	7:49	5:04	7:43	5:35	7:43
26	7:18	7:17	7:50	6:31	6:02	7:49	5:05	7:43	5:36	7:43
27	7:19	7:16	7:51	6:29	6:01	7:50	5:06	7:42	5:37	7:42
28	7:20	7:14	7:52	6:28	6:00	7:50	5:06	7:41	5:39	7:41
29	7:21	7:12	7:53	6:27	6:00	7:50	5:07	7:40	5:40	7:40
30	7:22	7:11	7:55	6:26	6:00	7:51	5:08	7:39	5:41	7:39
31			7:56	6:24	6:00	7:51	5:09	7:38	5:42	7:38

North Platte Sunrise/Sunset Schedule

September October November December January

Day	September		October		November		December		January	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	7:09	8:16	7:40	7:25	8:14	6:39	7:49	5:15	8:08	5:25
2	7:10	8:14	7:41	7:24	8:15	6:38	7:50	5:15	8:08	5:26
3	7:11	8:13	7:42	7:22	8:16	6:37	7:51	5:15	8:09	5:27
4	7:12	8:11	7:43	7:20	8:17	6:35	7:52	5:14	8:09	5:27
5	7:13	8:09	7:44	7:19	8:17	6:34	7:53	5:14	8:09	5:28
6	7:14	8:08	7:45	7:17	8:17	6:33	7:54	5:14	8:08	5:29
7	7:15	8:06	7:46	7:15	8:17	6:32	7:55	5:14	8:08	5:30
8	7:16	8:04	7:47	7:14	8:17	6:31	7:55	5:14	8:08	5:31
9	7:17	8:03	7:48	7:12	8:17	6:30	7:56	5:14	8:08	5:32
10	7:18	8:01	7:49	7:11	8:17	6:29	7:57	5:14	8:08	5:33
11	7:19	7:59	7:50	7:09	8:17	6:28	7:58	5:14	8:08	5:34
12	7:20	7:58	7:51	7:07	8:17	6:27	7:59	5:15	8:07	5:35
13	7:21	7:56	7:52	7:06	8:17	6:26	8:00	5:15	8:07	5:37
14	7:22	7:54	7:53	7:04	8:17	6:25	8:00	5:15	8:07	5:38
15	7:23	7:53	7:54	7:03	8:17	6:24	8:01	5:15	8:06	5:39
16	7:24	7:51	7:56	7:01	8:17	6:23	8:02	5:15	8:06	5:40
17	7:25	7:49	7:57	7:00	8:17	6:23	8:02	5:16	8:05	5:41
18	7:26	7:47	7:58	6:58	8:17	6:22	8:03	5:16	8:05	5:42
19	7:27	7:46	7:59	6:57	8:17	6:21	8:04	5:17	8:04	5:43
20	7:28	7:44	8:00	6:55	8:17	6:20	8:04	5:17	8:04	5:45
21	7:29	7:42	8:01	6:54	8:17	6:19	8:05	5:17	8:03	5:46
22	7:30	7:41	8:02	6:52	8:17	6:18	8:05	5:18	8:03	5:47
23	7:31	7:39	8:03	6:51	8:17	6:18	8:06	5:18	8:02	5:48
24	7:32	7:37	8:05	6:49	8:17	6:17	8:06	5:19	8:01	5:49
25	7:33	7:35	8:06	6:48	8:17	6:17	8:07	5:20	8:00	5:51
26	7:34	7:34	8:07	6:47	8:17	6:16	8:07	5:20	8:00	5:52
27	7:35	7:32	8:08	6:45	8:17	6:15	8:07	5:21	7:59	5:53
28	7:36	7:30	8:09	6:44	8:17	6:14	8:08	5:22	7:58	5:54
29	7:37	7:29	8:10	6:43	8:17	6:14	8:08	5:22	7:58	5:54
30	7:38	7:27	8:12	6:41	8:17	6:13	8:08	5:23	7:56	5:57
31			8:13	6:40	8:17	6:13	8:08	5:24	7:55	5:58

This schedule applies to any point in Nebraska that is due north or due south of each of the cities listed. For each 9 miles west of any designated city, add 1 minute. For each 9 miles east, subtract 1 minute. Be sure to set your watch according to the time zone in which you are hunting. Times are taken from the official "Tables of Sunrise and Sunset", compiled by the U.S. Naval Observatory. Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 6, 2011, and begins March 11, 2012. All information presented here is believed correct but is not guaranteed. It is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of legal shooting hours for the game they are hunting. To create a sunrise/sunset schedule for any city, town or village in Nebraska, visit OutdoorNebraska.org.