

[Always Deer Season: Range conditions improve slightly](#) July 12, 2025 Texas, Longview News-Journal

... Following an 11-year high fawn recruitment of 47 percent in 2024, the Texas deer population has climbed to 5 million white-tailed deer...

[Woods, Waters, and Wildlife: Fawns Aplenty This Year](#) July 11, 2025 Texas, Freestone County Times

... According to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) surveys, Texas has roughly five million white-tailed deer...

[Forward Thinking: The first \(of several\) looks at the 2025 Deer Season](#) July 12, 2025 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Following an 11-year high fawn recruitment of 47 percent in 2024, the Texas deer population has climbed to 5 million white-tailed deer and is recovering from the severe drought conditions three years ago," Korzekwa said. That is a 6.6 percent increase over 2023's total of 4.7 million deer...

[Rains, mild temperatures set the stage for strong fall hunting outlook](#) August 26, 2025 Texas, AgriLife Today - Texas A&M University

... Although portions of the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau and South Texas Plains continue to experience [some form of drought](#), more than 60% of the state is drought-free, ... With a population of roughly 5 million, Texas is home to more white-tailed deer than any other state. And thanks to mostly positive environmental conditions during gestation and fawning periods, Texans should expect to see many new, healthy additions to the landscape ...

From TPWD

Hill Country

The Hill Country continues to have the highest population density in the state.

Despite severe flooding in early July, TPWD biologists believe most deer were able to escape to higher ground, and overall impacts on the deer population should be minimal.

However, recent rains came too late to drastically boost antler growth, but mild summer temperatures and improved vegetation in a prolonged drought will likely support strong fawn survival.

Hunters focusing on areas like Llano and Mason counties, where deer densities are highest, should expect to encounter a healthy number of bucks in the 4½ to 5½-year-old range.

South Texas

South Texas is known as the premier big buck destination in the state and has an estimated population of 527,000 white-tailed deer.

While most of the region remains under severe or extreme drought, some areas received timely rainfall in the spring that could potentially boost antler development and overall herd health.

Properties managed for older age-class bucks are expected to benefit the most. Last season, 56% of the buck harvest in the region was made up of deer 4½ years or older. Hunters targeting South Texas ranches may see some of the best mature buck opportunities in the state again this year.

Post Oak region

The Post Oak region is also showing signs of a productive season ahead.

The northern part of the region received beneficial spring rainfall, which should help with fawn recruitment and overall deer health.

In 2024, 42% of harvest bucks in the region were 4½ years or older, setting a record for the area.

Although drought conditions persisted in the southern portion of the region, mature buck sightings and harvest opportunities are still expected to be solid, particularly for deer at least 4½ years old.

East Texas

In East Texas, the population has remained stable at around 327,000 deer for the last four years.

Overall densities can be modest in some parts of this forested region, but habitat-managed properties often see much higher concentrations.

The highest numbers remain near Tyler, and local areas that practice sound deer management can exceed 40 to 50 deer per 1,000 acres.

In 2024, 29% of harvested bucks were 4½ years old or older and also set a record for this region.

TPWD advises hunters to be selective this year, as the middle-aged bucks are thinner and will be important to future mature harvests.

Cross Timbers region

The Cross Timbers region boasts the second-largest deer population in Texas at nearly 788,000 deer.

Poor fawn recruitment in 2022 has led to reduced numbers of younger bucks available this season, but mature buck numbers remain strong.

The age structure is well-distributed, and with timely spring rains, harvest success is expected to mirror last years 69% success rate, according to TPWD.

Rolling Plains

Both the eastern and western Rolling Plains have experienced steady deer population growth in recent years.

Densities range from 18 to 92 deer per 1,000 acres, depending on the location.

Sporadic fawn production has created some gaps in age classes, but mature bucks remain a bright spot.

In the western portion, over 52% of bucks harvested last year were at least 4½ years old, placing the region just behind South Texas for mature buck harvest.

TPWD noted lower hunting pressure, large property sizes and increased interest in wildlife management have helped mature bucks thrive.

Harvest success in both regions hovered around 70% in 2024, and similar outcomes are expected this season.