



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hunting News

Conservation and Recreation



August 31, 2017

Teal season opens Saturday, Sept. 2

The September teal hunting season begins Sept. 2, and based on a recently released population survey, hunters can expect to find about the same amount of teal as they have during the last five years.

“Watch the weather in the northern prairies. If it's cold up there, the birds will begin heading down,” said Orrin Jones, waterfowl biologist with the DNR. “This time of year is a great time to be on the marsh. Teal decoy very well, are fun to hunt and provide a lot of excitement. It’s one of my favorite ducks to eat.”

Tips for a successful hunt:

- **Teal prefer shallow water** so hunting is primarily done from shore. No special equipment is necessary – just standard decoys, light loads and wide chokes. Scouting wetland conditions is important even during the best water years. In years when a good portion of the state is experiencing a drought, scouting is more important.
- **Teal are the smallest migratory waterfowl** and tend to fly erratically. Take time to properly identify birds. Remember, teal are the only bird that can be harvested in this special season.
- **Take a kid with you.** Teal are a great bird to hunt with kids or novices because there tends to be lots of action and the weather is still nice.

Tools you can use

- [Wetland conditions now available! \(PDF\)](#)
- [Migratory game bird regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [DNR hunting atlas](#)
- [Helpful teal guide \(PDF\)](#)

More Iowa teal hunting tips



NEW season dates for 2017:

North & South Zones -- Sept. 2-10

Missouri River Zone -- Sept. 2-17

Shooting hours: Sunrise to sunset (this is different than duck season hours, which start a 1/2 hour before sunrise)

Shot: Nontoxic shot required

Bag Limits: Daily limit of 6, possession limit of 18

Licenses/fees: Small game license and habitat fee, migratory game bird fee, federal duck stamp if required.