



ACRES & AVENUES



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The Hunter's Odyssey

Odysseus spent 10 years trying to find his way home after Troy, but setting up camp this season won't take nearly as long.

That said, early-fall prep is a labor of its own. Warm afternoons may still linger, but those crisp, cool evenings are a clear sign that hunting season is knocking at the door. Sweating through early-season prep is just part of the routine around here, and before you know it, hunting season will be in full swing..

Whether you're gearing up with a bow, muzzleloader, or rifle, staying on top of state regulations and season dates is essential. Below is your quick-reference guide for Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee for the 2026–2027 season:

Alabama	
Deer/bow	Oct 15-Feb 10
Deer/muzzleloader	Nov 16-20
Deer/rifle	Nov 21-Feb 10
Turkey - no decoys	Mar 25-Apr 3
Turkey (select counties)	Apr 1-May 8
Mississippi	
Deer/bow	Oct 1-Nov 20
Deer/primitive weapon	Nov 9-20; Dec 2-15; Jan 22-31
Deer/Gun (with dogs)	Nov 21-Dec 1; Dec 24 - Jan 20
Deer/Gun (without dogs)	Dec 16-23
Turkey	Mar 15 - May 2
Tennessee	
Deer/bow	Sept 26-Oct 23; Oct 26 - Nov 6
Deer/muzzleloader	Nov 7-20
Deer/rifle	Nov 21 - Jan 3
Turkey	Apr 3 - May 16

Note: Always check with state agencies for county-specific regulations, antler restrictions, and quota permit rules before heading into the field.



Preparing the Grounds: Pre-Season Checklist

Before stepping into the woods on opening day, a successful season depends on putting in the work weeks in advance:

Safety First (Most Importantly): Check every stand strap, ratchet, cable, and ladder rung for weather wear, rust, or dry rot after months of off-season exposure. Always inspect full-body fall-arrest harnesses, replace aged safety ropes/lifelines, and brush out clear, unobstructed shooting lanes to ensure positive target identification.

- **Trail & Access Maintenance:** Trim back overhanging limbs, clear downed trees from woods roads, and ensure main entry gates and locks are greased and operational. A critical reminder for property gates: never use loose steel cables across access roads or property lines. Cables create severe hazards for riders on ATVs, UTVs, or horses who may not see them in low light; stick to solid metal pipe gates.
- **Trail Cam Reconnaissance:** Place cameras along field edges, pinch points, and water sources to inventory buck growth and track herd movement patterns.
- **Food Plot Prep & Planting:** Conduct soil tests, disk ground, and plant fall forage (clover, oats, rye) timed right before seasonal rains to establish lush feeding areas.
- **Scent Control & Gear Prep:** Air out camouflage, inspect bow strings, sight in rifles and muzzleloaders at the range, and wash hunting gear in scent-free detergent.

Guarding the Citadel: Why Hunting Leases Protect Your Land

While Odysseus was away on his decade-long Odyssey, his home kingdom was overrun by opportunists, trespassers, and unruly suitors who consumed his resources and damaged his estate because no one was guarding the gates. Unmonitored land is vulnerable, and a reputable hunting club can act as the loyal guard keeping order while you aren't there.

1. **Security & Eyes on the Ground:** Active clubs maintain gates, post boundary lines, and keep an eye out for trespassing, illegal dumping, or timber theft.
2. **Property Enhancement:** Hunters routinely maintain woods roads, clear access trails, and plant nutrient-rich wildlife food plots.
3. **Value Appreciation:** A well-managed tract with a history of quality wildlife management consistently holds higher market value when it comes time to sell.

In the end, no journey is complete without a secure sanctuary to return to. Proper management and preparation turn raw land into a legacy – ensuring your kingdom is ready for opening morning.



Haven't Planted Your Fall Food Plot Yet? You're Not Too Late.

October is a critical month for land managers and deer hunters, but many assume if seed isn't in the ground by September, the window has passed. In fact, October planting often provides better soil moisture and cooler temperatures that help cereal grains and clover thrive.

In our latest Substack article, we break down the exact 6-step sequence, from spraying and disking to proper seed depth, to get your plots green and holding game before you know it.

[See full article](#)

Ready to get out and enjoy the
spooky October events?

Check out these events ranging from the
Alabama Renaissance Faire to the local
Oktoberfest celebrations

Brave the Horrors of Arx Mortis! Ranked among the top haunted attractions in the Southeast, Arx Mortis in Killen is a massive 50,000-square-foot indoor haunt designed to terrify even the biggest thrill-seekers. Step through the doors of Covington Clinic to experience intense theatrical horror, then hit the "Fright Town" midway for blacklight mini-golf and zombie games. Running every weekend through Halloween night—grab your tickets early if you dare!

Sept. 26, 2026, 7:30 pm - Sat, Oct 31, 2026

[Arx Mortis Link](#)

The Alabama Renaissance Faire October 24–25, 2026

A local favorite where downtown Florence transforms into a medieval village complete with jousting, artisans, period food, and costumed

[Renaissance Faire Link](#)

The background of the poster is a photograph of a forest with trees covered in vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and red. A large, ripe orange pumpkin sits on the ground in the lower right foreground, surrounded by fallen leaves.

St. Florian Oktoberfest

October 2-3, 2026

Features over 100 arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, live music, a German beer garden, a car show, and the Antique Tractor Club parade.

[Oktoberfest Link](#)

The background of the poster is a photograph of a scarecrow with a large, carved wooden face, wearing a straw hat and a patterned shirt. The scarecrow is positioned in front of a large pile of dry, tangled branches or straw. The sky is clear and blue.

Huntsville Botanical Garden Festival & Night Events

All month the Garden features pumpkin displays, scarecrow trails, and family activity stations across the 112-acre garden.

Beginning late October, Spellbound returns - an adults-only (21+) evening event featuring illuminating botanical displays, themed cocktails, and nighttime entertainment.

[Huntsville Botanical Garden Link](#)

A collage of tarot cards, including the King of Swords, the Sun, and the Queen of Hearts, with a dark, moody atmosphere.

ORION NIGHT MARKET: SPOOKY SPIRITS

OCTOBER 27 5PM-9PM

A THEMED TWILIGHT MARKET AT
APOLLO PARK WITH TAROT
READINGS, LOCAL ARTISANS, FOOD
TRUCKS, AND LIVE ACOUSTIC
MUSIC.

[Orion Night Market - Spooky Spirits Link](#)

A photograph of a pumpkin patch with several pumpkins in the foreground and a barn in the background under a warm, golden light.

Tate Farms Cotton & Pumpkin Patch

Throughout the month of October, this
massively popular regional farm features
hayrides, corn mazes, pumpkin picking, and
fall farm play areas.

[Tate Farms Cotton & Pumpkin Patch Link](#)

Fall Spotlight: Nashville's Cheekwood Harvest

The ultimate autumnal destination is back! Featuring over 100,000 pumpkins, vibrant garden displays, live music, and local food trucks throughout the month of October, Cheekwood Estate is the must-visit spot to soak in the season this October.

[Nashville's Cheekwood Harvest Link](#)



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