

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: *Belgium*



Updated in July 2016

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: Hunting Law modified by Decree in 1991 and 1994 to be regionalised (three regions: Wallonia, Flanders and Bruxelles)

Year of publication: 1882/1991-1994

Supporting legislation:

- Wallonia

Decree on hunting licences (1990) modified by Decree in 1994

<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse/chasse019.htm>

Order of the Walloon Government organizing the hunting exam in Wallonia (1998)

<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse/chasse029.htm>

Order of the Walloon Government regulating the use of firearms and ammunition for the exercise of hunting, as well as certain processes or hunting techniques (2005)

<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse/chasse006.htm>

- Flanders

Decree on hunting (1991)

<http://codex.vlaanderen.be/Zoeken/Document.aspx?DID=1002550¶m=inhoud>

Order of the Flemish Government establishing the conditions under which hunting may be exercised (2014) <http://codex.vlaanderen.be/Zoeken/Document.aspx?DID=1024157¶m=informatie>

Order of the Flemish Government establishing opening hours for hunting:

<http://codex.vlaanderen.be/Portals/Codex/documenten/1023033.html>

- Bruxelles: hunting ban

Benelux protocol on hunting: <http://www.benelux.int/nl/kernthemas/leefmilieu/jacht-en-vogelbescherming-de-benelux>

Legislation updates:

- Wallonia: a new Order of the Walloon Government is issued every 5 year the dates of the opening, the closure and suspension of hunting. The last Order is for period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2021 <http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse/chasse114.html>
- Flanders: a new Order of the Flemish Government is issued every 5 year the dates of the opening, the closure and suspension of hunting. The last Order is for period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018 <http://codex.vlaanderen.be/Zoeken/Document.aspx?DID=1023033¶m=informatie>. But the five year evaluation was deleted in 2015 by an update of the hunting decree

Hunting legislation (web link):

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- Wallonia: <http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse.htm>
- Flanders: <http://codex.vlaanderen.be/Zoeken/Document.aspx?DID=1002550¶m=inhoud>
(for orders, see above)

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link):

- Wallonia: Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Ruralité (Ministry of Agriculture); Direction Générale des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement (General Direction for Natural Resources and Environment)
- Flanders: Ministerie van Leefmilieu (Ministry of Environment) ; Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe): None

Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention):

- Wallonia: Derogation (according to Art 9 of Bird Directives) are issued for a certain number of birds, for the supposed damaged that they are causing to farming and fisheries (crows and fish-eating birds).
- Flanders: no derogations in hunting legislation, but there is a derogation from the Birds directive art. 9 concerning eradication of protected bird species in the species legislation – next to normal hunting and eradication, we have “special hunting” “to prevent” damage (different opening hours, different means and methods, ...) – the grounds for this special type of hunting are based on the derogations in birds directive (special type of damage, special rules for hunting in bird areas)

HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Wallonia

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<p>Licensed hunting is permitted for certain period and certain species (see below)</p> <p>Only the following firearms may be used for the practice of hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shotguns with 24-12 calibres - rifles with calibre of at least 0.22 or 5.58 mm - mixed weapons of calibres identical to those mentioned previously <p>It is forbidden to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - automatic weapons - semi-automatic weapons with magazine capacity with more than two cartridges - weapons equipped with artificial light sources or devices for illuminating the target - weapons fitted with a sighting device having an image converter or an electronic image amplifier or other device to pull the night - weapons equipped with a silencer 	<p>In case of frost, waterfowl hunting can be forbidden</p> <p>For bird hunting, it is only allowed to use bullets with metal beads of diameter 3.5mm or smaller. Lead ammunition is forbidden in wetland areas. Nickel ammunition is allowed.</p> <p>It is never allowed to remove, destroy, sell, buy, transport... eggs or chicks of native bird species classified as hunted fowl.</p> <p>Call hunting is not allowed, except with some exceptions (ex. ambush hunting of the common wood pigeon or mallard). Use of mechanical or electronic calling is not allowed. Use of</p>

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	<p>It is forbidden to hunt <200 m of habitation</p> <p>Hunting can only be carried out on territories with a minimum size (25 ha or 50ha, depending on the region)</p>	<p>live bait or callers is not allowed, except when hunting mallard, common wood pigeon, or grey partridge (for the partridge, only allowed during closed hunting season). Blinding and mutilating bait or callers is not allowed.</p>
Trapping	<p>It is never allowed to transport or use nets, snares, leg-hold traps, bait... nor any other contraption in order catch, destroy, or facilitate the catching and destruction of animals.</p>	

- Flanders

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<p>Licensed hunting is permitted for certain period and certain species (see below)</p> <p>There are restrictions in gun type, hunting means and methods in the hunting order art. 11 and following: http://codex.vlaanderen.be/Portals/Codex/documenten/1024157.html - such as no living animals, no horses, no “hazewindhonden”, It is forbidden to hunt <150m of habitation Special rules for birdrich area’s (no hunting in breeding season, ...)</p> <p>For waterbirds you can only use fire arms and birds of prey. As aid, you can use dead animals, artificial animals and non-electric acoustic devices.</p>	
Trapping	<p>Trapping is legal if you use certain types of traps (specific ones), check them daily and label them with your permit number – you can use dead or organic bait</p>	

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

- Wallonia

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
1 Oct. – 31 Jan.	Common Pheasant	Introduced species (to 31 Dec. for female)
1 Sept. – 30 Nov.	Grey Partridge	Only in territories associated with game management units
15 Oct. – 31 Dec.	Eurasian Woodcock	
1 Aug. – 15 March	Canada goose	Introduced species Decoy authorised
15 Aug. – 31 jan	Mallard	Decoy authorised
15 Oct. – 31 Jan.	Common teal, Common Coot	
1 Oct. – 10 Feb.	Common Woodpigeon	Hunting by shooting

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No open season	<p>Pink-footed Goose, greylag Goose, Bean Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose</p> <p>Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Garganey, Common Pochard, Greater Scaup, Tufted Duck</p> <p>Eurasian Golden Plover, Common Snipe, Jack Snip, Northern Lapwing, Common Moorhen</p>	Huntable species with no open season for the period 01/07/2016-30/06/2021
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Falconry: All game species can be hunted by falconry from 1 Sept. to 31 Jan., except Common Woodpigeon from 1 Oct. to 10 Feb.

- Flanders

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
Mid-Oct. – 31 Jan.	Common Pheasant	Introduced species (to 31 Dec. for female) – hunting is now forbidden since this legislation has been destroyed by juridical court after a complaint by VBV
Mid-Sept. – Mid-Nov.	Grey Partridge	Only in territories associated with game management units
Mid-Aug. – 31 Jan.	Wild ducks (i.e. Mallard mainly)	Special hunting mid-July – mid-Aug. Normal hunting: mid-August to end of Jan Wigeon: mid-Oct. – mid-Nov where the hunted plots can be demonstrated by the hunting right holder damages to other agricultural crops other than permanent grassland
Mid-Aug. – 30 Sept.	Greylag Goose	Special hunting mid-July – mid-Aug. and 1 Oct. – 31 Jan. Normal hunting: mid-Aug- end of September
Mid-Aug. – 31 March	Canada Goose	Introduced species Special hunting 1 April – mid-Aug. Normal hunting: mid-Aug-1 April
All-year round	Lapwing	Special hunting all year round but limited to certain airports
Mid-Sept. – 28/29 Feb.	Eurasian Collared-dove	Special hunting 1 March – mid-Sept Normal hunting mid sept-1 march

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TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

- Wallonia

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
N/A	N/A	

- Flanders

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
follows opening hours of hunting above		

TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

- Wallonia

Legal trade	Notes
<p>Forbidden to carry a dead game except from opening day until and including the 10th day after the closed season for the species concerned.</p> <p>Trade only authorised for Mallard, Common Pheasant and Grey Partridge (not hunted by falconry)</p> <p>Order of the Walloon Government laying down the conditions of the offer to final consumption, transport and storage of dead game during a closed time http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse/chasse025.htm</p>	<p>Transporting and releasing is only allowed outside of the hunting season.</p>
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
<p>Source : http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse/chasse041.htm</p> <p>Common wood pigeon: To prevent important damages to crops. Requires authorizations. Only accepted if doesn't compromise the survival of the bird population, and if no other solution is possible. Allowed during the day, for specific periods depending on the crop type. Authorized methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - firearms, with or without call or hunting decoys - legally-detained birds of prey 	<p>Hunting stands are allowed even near the edge of the hunting territory when hunting the common wood pigeon.</p>

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<p>Canada goose: To prevent important damages to crops, or to protect fauna or flora. Requires authorizations. Allowed year-round, daytime. Only in vegetable, rape, and grain farmland; meadows; nature reserves; parks gardens and green spaces. Authorized methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - firearms (not in parks, gardens etc) - egg destruction - capture (excluding nets) and euthanasia (by injection) by a vet - legally-detained birds of prey - dogs <p>Other: For aviation safety, around main airports. Year-round, both day and night. Authorized only if other methods (prevention, scaring) are insufficient. Authorized methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nets, traps etc that allow capture without harming the animal - non-poisoned bait - tranquilizer guns - firearms - legally-detained birds of prey 	
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- Flanders

Legal trade	Notes
Forbidden to carry a dead game except from opening day until and including the 10 th day after the closed season for the species concerned.	
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
See above (cf. special hunting)	

NGO: Natagora and Natuurpunt

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