2025 WEST VIRGINIA HUNTING OUTLOOK AND MAST SURVEY

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

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The committee would like to recognize the important work of several individuals: data entry staff Janet Mullennex and Kimberly Nestor, data processing staff Brandy Bachman and Iris Allen, and the administrative assistant for game management services. Their work behind the scenes helps make this survey possible every year.

2025 West Virginia Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section

Wildlife Resources Section Bulletin 25-04

HUNTING OUTLOOK

Black Bear

The black bear season structure is very similar to 2024. Seasons that produce the majority of the harvest didn't change. We have a healthy bruin population in the Mountain State, and hunters are afforded numerous diverse hunting opportunities. Statewide, the oak mast index is nearly 50% above the level recorded in 2024 which will lead to changes in harvest distribution in 2025.

Archery hunting success rates depend greatly on mast conditions. Bear harvests decrease in years of increased mast abundance and increase in years of mast scarcity. Bears often concentrate on hickory production early in the year. This year's hickory index is up 76% across the state and will make it harder to locate bear sign. **Increased hard mast production across all species in 2025 will lead to a lower bear archery harvest.**

The firearms bear harvest will be higher than the harvest of 2024. All hard mast is better than the 54-year average in the mountain counties. The majority of the late season harvest comes from this area in the National Forest. This should prolong bears entering dens and allow hunters opportunities for harvests through December if the weather doesn't impede.

White-tailed Deer

We expect the total white-tailed deer harvest in 2025 to be lower than in 2024. Acorn mast appears to be abundant across much of the state this year, and that can make deer hunting very challenging. With more available nutrition on the landscape in the form of acorn mast, deer won't need to move as far from thick cover to meet their caloric demands, which reduces the likelihood of hunters seeing and having an opportunity to harvest them. Deer populations throughout the state remain very strong; however, there may be localized effects of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) which could affect local deer populations and harvests whether due to heavy deer mortality or subsequent reduction in hunter effort or harvest as a response to the outbreak. EHD is unpredictable in nature and a natural phenomenon in the southeastern United States. Optimum conditions for viral transmission occur during exceptionally dry late summer/early fall months when deer are most vulnerable to biting midges as they concentrate near minimalized water sources. Muddy or wet areas rich in organic material are also highly desirable reproduction locations for biting midges. While outbreaks of EHD are concerning to many hunters, deer populations easily recover from outbreaks of this unpreventable, untreatable virus. While most outbreaks in WV aren't sufficient for hunters to notice any difference in deer densities on the landscape, rare outbreaks do occur where heavy mortality is possible and there may be density effects. However, even following these rare heavy mortality events- a few of which have been observed in West Virginia this summer- deer populations rebound within a few years at most to their starting densities following density-dependent reproductive responses. As always, we recommend scouting your hunting area before and during the season to determine what produced well and assess the available mast as the season progresses.

We are predicting a lower archery harvest in 2025. Where acorns were locally

“spotty,” hunters should focus on areas with available white oak and chestnut oak mast, but our survey results indicate an acorn mast crop that is widespread and quite abundant across much of the state thus making it harder to pinpoint and target deer feeding areas. Additionally, with abundant acorn mast, baiting becomes a much less effective hunting strategy in places where it is lawful to do. Hunters who hunt on public lands and in CWD Containment Area counties should note that baiting is not lawful in these areas.

We are predicting a lower buck firearms season harvest in 2025. The 2024 buck firearms harvest was slightly below the 5-year average, so plenty of bucks should be available on the landscape. The two biggest factors that always influence the buck firearms harvest are weather and hunter participation (especially during the first 3 days of the season when the most hunters are afield), but abundant acorn mast across much of the state may reduce deer movement and thus may reduce the number of deer hunters see. The amount of mast remaining on the ground throughout the state by Thanksgiving week will influence the ability of hunters to see deer out in fields and will reduce the effectiveness of baiting where it is lawful if acorns remain abundant at that time. As such, hunters may have to put in more time to get a look at a buck this season, but successfully harvesting a deer in a year where hard work was required is always rewarding.

The antlerless harvest in 2025 will likely be lower than the harvest in 2024. Antlerless harvest levels are influenced by the same factors that influence the buck firearms harvest. Antlerless season structures are similar in 2025 to what was offered in 2024, but hunting opportunities were “liberalized” in a few counties (Clay, Hancock, and Nicholas) thus increasing harvest opportunities for hunters in those counties. However, abundant acorn mast will likely reduce deer movement, will reduce the effectiveness of bait in counties where baiting is lawful, and may thus decrease opportunities at deer harvest this year. Additionally, hunters in counties that were notably affected by EHD outbreaks in the late summer of 2025 may reduce their own antlerless deer hunting, although this isn’t necessary for the long-term sustainability of deer herds in West Virginia. Opportunities to harvest antlerless deer are widely available throughout the fall and into the winter. Hunters in counties where harvesting a doe is required before a second buck can be harvested within that county should keep this requirement in mind and hunt antlerless deer during earlier seasons. Hunters should refer to the 2025-2026 Hunting Regulations starting on page 15 regarding deer hunting seasons.

The muzzleloader harvest should be relatively similar to the harvest in 2024. Like the buck firearms and antlerless seasons, the muzzleloader harvest is heavily influenced by weather and hunter participation. While muzzleloader hunting doesn’t seem to be as popular as it once was in West Virginia, it’s a good opportunity to spend some more time in the woods- always a good thing- and try to put some more meat in the freezer. Due to the later season timing, it also provides an increased chance hunters will get a chance to hunt in fresh snow, which greatly helps in tracking game and increasing the visibility of deer slipping through the timber.

The Mountaineer Heritage Season harvest should be similar to that of the past season (January 2025). The Mountaineer Heritage season gives hunters a chance to bring out their traditional muzzleloading rifles and archery equipment to pursue deer that haven’t been pressured in several weeks. Acorns may be scarce or present in locally isolated pockets by this time, so hunters who “find the sign” by scouting should have excellent hunting prospects. In addition, the excellent acorn crop should improve the

likelihood hunters may encounter a bear in the January woods during the coming Mountaineer season in January 2026. Hunters are very unlikely to experience interference from other hunters or much “competition” on public lands during this unique season, which also provides an increased likelihood of hunting in snow.

Wild Turkey

Fall turkey harvests are heavily influenced by brood production in that year and available mast. Statewide, hard mast production this year is above average. Beech, Chestnut Oak, and White Oak are notably higher than other hard mast species. The Eastern Panhandle by far has the best hard mast production in 2025 compared to 2024. As always, we recommend scouting the areas you intend to hunt and see how things fare in your region. Based on the abundance of food this fall, relatively similar brood production, and similar hunter effort, **wild turkey harvest should be similar to last year.**

Every county will again have some length of fall turkey season in 2025. Traditional counties will continue to have a 4-week season. Non-traditional counties will have either a one or two-week season. Hunters should refer to the 2025-2026 Hunting Regulations on page 44 to find out the fall turkey hunting regulations specific to their county. The Mountaineer Heritage Season in January 2026 permits participants to harvest one either-sex turkey. See page 35 of the 2025-2026 Hunting Regulations for more details on legal weapons.

Wild Boar

We are predicting a similar wild boar harvest in 2025-2026. Generally, wild boar harvests have been on an upward trend since the introduction of the winter season. During the 2024-2025 season, excellent white and red/black oak production in the Southern region and rainfall contributed to the lowest reported harvest during the past five seasons. In the wild boar area of southern WV, good mast production in 2024 will have had a positive impact on reproduction. Excellent hard mast production in the Southern Region for 2025 will have boar spread out among the abundant food sources and negatively impact the archery harvest. Hunters will once again have the opportunity to pursue boar in February, where the bulk of the harvests are recorded.

Gray and Fox Squirrel

Mast from the previous year is the primary influence on squirrel populations the following year. In 2024, Beech, Hickory, and Walnut production were below the 2023 levels in all ecological regions, and almost all were below the long-term average (hickory was slightly above the long-term average in the Southwestern Region). With the exception of the Eastern Panhandle, all regions saw an increase in Scarlet Oak, Black/Red Oak, and/or White Oak in 2024 compared to the long-term average. Overwinter survival and spring reproduction were likely better in these regions, but the squirrel population in the Eastern Panhandle likely suffered due to exceptionally poor mast conditions. In 2025, the squirrel-favored mast of Beech, Hickory, and Walnut all produced well, and hunters should target these species.

Take advantage of the early season when leaves are still on and scout your favorite

spots for available mast. Squirrel hunting is a great way to get novice hunters involved in the outdoors. With the almost 6-month long season, squirrel hunting provides a low-pressure opportunity to get out in the woods almost any day! **Squirrel harvest should be similar to that of 2024-2025.**

Cottontail Rabbit

Cover is the most important factor for rabbit survival. Incredible rainfall early this year provided the vegetative cover rabbits need to hide from predators. However, recent weather has taken the opposite turn. It seems like it's been forever since we have had consistent rainfall. Rabbit has definitely been on the menu for predators the last 2 months. It's going to be a hard season. **Hunters should expect lower harvests this season.**

Raccoon

Raccoon reproductive rates are directly reflected upon the mast conditions of the previous year. Statewide, the combined hard mast abundance was below average in 2024. Statewide oak mast was slightly up from 2023 but still below the long-term average. This may have had negative effects on physical condition during the spring breeding season. **Raccoon numbers statewide should be slightly lower this year.**

Ruffed Grouse

Areas in and adjacent to young forest are excellent places to find ruffed grouse. Forest management is essential to creating and maintaining areas in suitable grouse habitat. This year, abundant Beech will have ruffed grouse dispersed across the landscape. Hard mast is abundant in every region. However, soft mast is spotty by region, with many trends being down from 2024 and the 54-year average. The Eastern Panhandle region has notably better soft mast production than other regions, specifically Dogwood, Greenbrier, and Hawthorn. **Ruffed grouse harvest should be similar to last year.** Take advantage of the days in October to focus on Beech, but keep in mind places where soft mast produced well for the later winter months. Chestnut Oak was substantially higher across the state, so those areas should be of focus once the preferred mast such as White Oak, Beech, etc. are consumed. As of the 2024-2025 hunting season, the WVDNR discontinued the Grouse Hunter Cooperator Survey due to extremely low participation. We encourage hunters to participate in the Spring Gobbler Survey and Bowhunter Survey, as we use these surveys to provide indices of abundance for various species, including ruffed grouse.

Table 1. Quick-reference chart of predicted statewide wildlife harvests (2025).

Species	Lower	Similar	Higher
Black Bear			**X**
White-tailed Deer	**X**		
Wild Turkey		**X**	
Wild Boar		**X**	
Gray and Fox Squirrels		**X**	
Cottontail Rabbits	**X**		
Raccoon	**X**		
Ruffed Grouse		**X**	
Quail	**X**		

Table 2. Quick-reference chart predicted deer harvest by region (2025).

Region	Total Harvest
Eastern Panhandle	Lower
Mountains	Lower
Southern	Similar
Central	Lower
Western	Lower
Southwestern	Lower
Statewide	**Lower**

2025 WEST VIRGINIA MAST SURVEY

The Division of Natural Resources (DNR), in conjunction with the Division of Forestry, surveys the state annually to determine the relative abundance of hard and soft mast produced by trees and shrubs of importance to wildlife populations. Information on the quantity of wildlife food is provided to our cooperators, hunters, and various media outlets.

Mast surveys were completed at 258 locations covering all regions of West Virginia in 2025. Professionals and volunteers- including wildlife specialists, foresters, wildlife biologists, Natural Resources Police Officers, Natural Resources Commissioners, and retired personnel from a multitude of natural resources related disciplines- devoted their time and effort to collect data for this survey. Without the participation of these individuals, completion of the statewide mast survey would not be possible. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who assisted with data collection for this year's survey.

The mast survey is a relative estimation of mast produced by 18 different tree and shrub species that are widespread, locally common throughout the state, and are of nutritional value to wildlife. A copy of the survey form can be found at the end of this report (Appendix). Cooperators are assigned counties and areas familiar to them to collect mast production information. The same areas are generally surveyed each year to ensure consistency in the survey across years. Mast crop production is subjectively evaluated as abundant, common, or scarce for each species encountered by the observer in the surveyed area. The surveyor also documents species that are not encountered, along with additional mast-producing species of local importance (e.g., Pawpaw, Persimmon, Cucumber-tree, Blueberry, Huckleberry, etc.) that do not appear on the statewide survey form. The mast index is calculated for each species, and in some cases guilds of species (e.g., hard mast producers, all oaks, oak-cherry-hickory, etc.), via the following formula:

$$\text{Mast Index} = [(\text{Abundant Observations}/\text{Total Observations}) + ((\text{Common Observations} \times 0.5)/\text{Total Observations})] \times 100$$

The mast index is calculated by species for each ecological region and elevation (high or low, relative to the local terrain of the surveyed county). The current year's index is compared to the previous year's index and the running long-term average spanning the life of the survey, which was first conducted in 1971. The mast survey was not conducted in 1978, 1982, and 1984. Readers unfamiliar with West Virginia ecoregions should refer to Figure 1 to determine the region(s) in which they hunt.

Many wildlife species are highly dependent upon mast crops produced by trees and shrubs. Dynamic factors, including survival and reproduction or fecundity, are also affected by mast availability. Caloric value available in mast is much more important to the survival of many wildlife species than the caloric value in agricultural crops, herbaceous plants, and supplemental feed. Seeds and fruits from trees and shrubs are necessary not only for overwinter survival, but also for ensuring animals are in good physical condition for reproduction in following months. Generally, animals that enter the

winter months with abundant fat reserves will be more likely to survive the lean months of the year and will produce and successfully rear more offspring during the subsequent spring and summer months. Wildlife biologists and managers can predict hunting prospects and forecast population dynamics of black bears, squirrels, white-tailed deer, wild boars, wild turkeys, and other game species by using mast production information gathered during the annual survey.

West Virginia suffered drought conditions of historic proportions that affected most of the state during the summer of 2024. In contrast, 2025 began as a wet year of historic proportions- which may have negatively affected some soft mast producers- and then shifted back to drought conditions across much of the state by late July. Cold, wet weather during flowering or bacterial/fungal tree diseases related to very wet weather may be explanatory factors for the apparent decrease in soft mast production, but hard mast producers seem to have weathered the extreme swing in conditions without issue.

This year, all hard mast species statewide were up compared to the 2024 season and the long-term average. The 2025 statewide total combined index for all monitored species was up 16% compared to 2024 (Table 3). Among the oak species, Chestnut Oak and Scrub Oak were up substantially from 2024 levels (119% and 100%, respectively). Beech and Walnut also saw substantial increases compared to 2024 (268% and 161%, respectively). Chestnut Oak, Beech, and Walnut were up in all ecological regions compared to 2024 (Table 4). The Eastern Panhandle, the ecoregion most negatively affected by the drought, saw substantial increases in hard mast species compared to 2024. Most notably, Chestnut Oak, Scarlet Oak, and Walnut saw large increases of 667%, 420%, and 400%, respectively. Black and Red Oak was down by 28% in the Southwestern Region compared to 2024 and fell slightly below the long-term average as well. Overall, there was abundant and widespread hard mast this year which may make hunting more challenging for some species. Please see the Hunting Outlook section for a more in-depth look.

Soft mast production was generally down this year, though the species impact varies by ecological region. Compared to the long-term average, statewide production decreased for Black Cherry (-59%), Grapes (-51%), Yellow Poplar (-27%), Greenbrier (-26%), and Sassafras (-24%). Crabapple increased slightly compared to the long-term average (+4%), and Apple did not change from the long-term average. Compared to last year, production was fairly mixed regionally. In the Eastern Panhandle, Blackberry (+142%) and Greenbrier (+138%) produced well, though these species had decreases in almost every other region. In the Central Region, Sassafras (+30%) and Apple (+20%) both produced well. Where available, soft mast provides significant and calorie-rich food resources for wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, black bears, and raccoons, all of which use soft mast extensively when and where it is available. Hunters should take note of regional mast survey information and scout accordingly. Several surveyors this year noted spotty soft mast production. Species that heavily use soft mast may be concentrated in these pockets of available food early in the season, and knowing where these pockets exist should make the likelihood of a successful harvest higher. These species may have to roam more to find soft mast as the autumn wears on and available fruit begins to disappear.

Diligent hunters should always pay attention to mast crop production in their area (Table 4; Table 5). Survey year 2025 revealed a crop that was generally better than 2024, though larger increases in hard mast likely outweighed the numerous soft mast species that did not produce as well. Comparisons to the long-term average provide a more tempered index to the mast crop than do annual comparisons, wherein small variations in production can dramatically influence percent change and thus may not provide a representative index to true abundance. The overall statewide mast crop was fairly stable with the long-term average, though some regions saw slight increases while others saw slight decreases.

Considering the long-term comparisons, the total mast crop of survey year 2025 is 2% above average driven primarily by increased hard mast production. Acorn production increases will likely lead to less movement by big game species. Hunters should prepare for challenging but rewarding harvests this year.

We recommend hunters review regional trends in mast production as reflected in Tables 4 and 5 to learn the wildlife food conditions in the regions of the state they intend to hunt. While this information should prove to be a valuable asset to all readers, local and regional differences are always at play when it comes to mast production. The West Virginia Mast Survey is intended to provide a representative regional and state-wide picture of wildlife food conditions “on the ground,” but it is not a substitute for diligent scouting!

2025 Mast Survey Highlights

- All Species Combined mast index is 2% above the statewide long-term average and 16% above 2024.
- Statewide acorn production was up from 2024 and from the long-term average. Chestnut Oak saw the greatest increase from the long-term average followed by White Oak. Acorns for game should be plentiful across the state.
- Beech, Hickory, and Walnut production were up from 2024 and from the long-term average. Every region saw increases in all three species compared to the long-term average.
- Soft mast production was generally down statewide, although Apple and Crabapple stayed near or above the long-term average. Soft mast production varied markedly by ecoregion.

Table 3. 2025 statewide index by species compared to 2024 and 54-year (1971-2024) average mast indexes.

Species	2025 Index	2024 Index	Percent Change from Last Year	Average Index	Percent Change from Average
Black/Red Oak	54	43	26%	41	32%
Chestnut Oak	57	26	119%	32	78%
Scarlet Oak	44	34	29%	33	33%
Scrub Oak	48	24	100%	36	33%
White Oak	54	37	46%	37	46%
Beech	70	19	268%	38	84%
Hickory	60	34	76%	48	25%
Walnut	60	23	161%	39	54%
Apple	57	66	-14%	57	0%
Black Cherry	19	52	-63%	46	-59%
Blackberry	42	48	-12%	51	-18%
Crabapple	56	65	-14%	54	4%
Dogwood	42	44	-5%	49	-14%
Grapes	20	35	-43%	41	-51%
Greenbrier	29	37	-22%	39	-26%
Hawthorn	42	46	-9%	48	-12%
Sassafras	26	29	-10%	34	-24%
Yellow Poplar	33	34	-3%	45	-27%
All Species	**44**	**38**	**16%**	**43**	**2%**

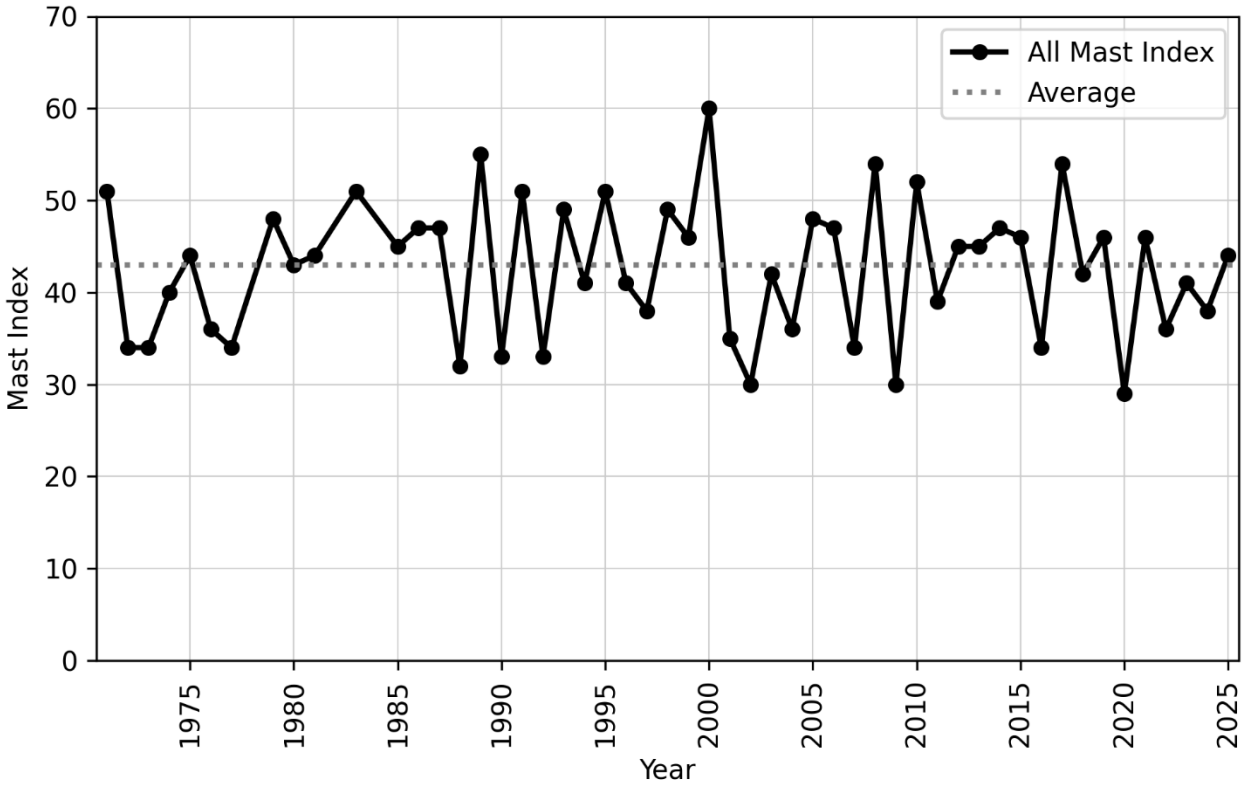
Table 4. Percent change in mast index by species between 2024 and 2025 by ecological region.

	Ecological Region					
Species	**Eastern Panhandle**	**Mountains**	**Southern**	**Central**	**Western**	**Southwestern**
Black/Red Oak	321%	68%	-4%	24%	32%	-28%
Chestnut Oak	667%	171%	168%	104%	77%	41%
Scarlet Oak	420%	66%	14%	0%	-6%	13%
Scrub Oak	139%	100%	-100%	100%	N/A	N/A
White Oak	314%	57%	-10%	73%	41%	26%
Beech	163%	162%	412%	1050%	158%	132%
Hickory	59%	185%	144%	146%	49%	-7%
Walnut	400%	186%	229%	221%	49%	148%
Apple	-33%	-5%	-29%	20%	-40%	-10%
Black Cherry	-36%	-31%	-52%	-63%	-92%	-64%
Blackberry	142%	-4%	-12%	7%	-45%	-34%
Crabapple	-9%	-1%	-21%	2%	-24%	-26%
Dogwood	79%	15%	3%	-13%	-17%	-30%
Grapes	-62%	-26%	-41%	-32%	-49%	-49%
Greenbrier	138%	-17%	-14%	-41%	-39%	-19%
Hawthorn	59%	-25%	-28%	16%	0%	-67%
Sassafras	10%	-22%	-23%	30%	-41%	-3%
Yellow Poplar	64%	18%	19%	19%	-24%	-52%
All Species	**105%**	**27%**	**20%**	**28%**	**-11%**	**-8%**

Table 5. Percent change in mast index by species between 2025 and the 55-year (1971-2024) average by ecological region.

	Ecological Region					
Species	**Eastern Panhandle**	**Mountains**	**Southern**	**Central**	**Western**	**Southwestern**
Black/Red Oak	34%	46%	10%	58%	44%	-9%
Chestnut Oak	53%	141%	109%	48%	31%	72%
Scarlet Oak	49%	66%	18%	41%	29%	26%
Scrub Oak	17%	35%	-100%	79%	N/A	N/A
White Oak	87%	97%	15%	50%	33%	29%
Beech	61%	70%	116%	109%	63%	51%
Hickory	5%	79%	35%	20%	6%	3%
Walnut	88%	94%	44%	56%	21%	67%
Apple	-11%	30%	-16%	3%	-25%	5%
Black Cherry	-57%	-18%	-45%	-69%	-89%	-65%
Blackberry	7%	-7%	-15%	-6%	-38%	-27%
Crabapple	0%	22%	10%	-7%	-11%	7%
Dogwood	33%	28%	-33%	-21%	-23%	-34%
Grapes	-79%	-38%	-70%	-39%	-48%	-36%
Greenbrier	31%	-29%	-55%	-26%	-36%	-4%
Hawthorn	35%	-19%	-7%	-20%	0%	-68%
Sassafras	-21%	7%	-47%	-6%	-35%	-16%
Yellow Poplar	-5%	8%	-37%	-18%	-40%	-46%
All Species	**13%**	**27%**	**-2%**	**7%**	**-9%**	**-2%**

Figure 1. Ecological regions of West Virginia for 2025 mast survey.



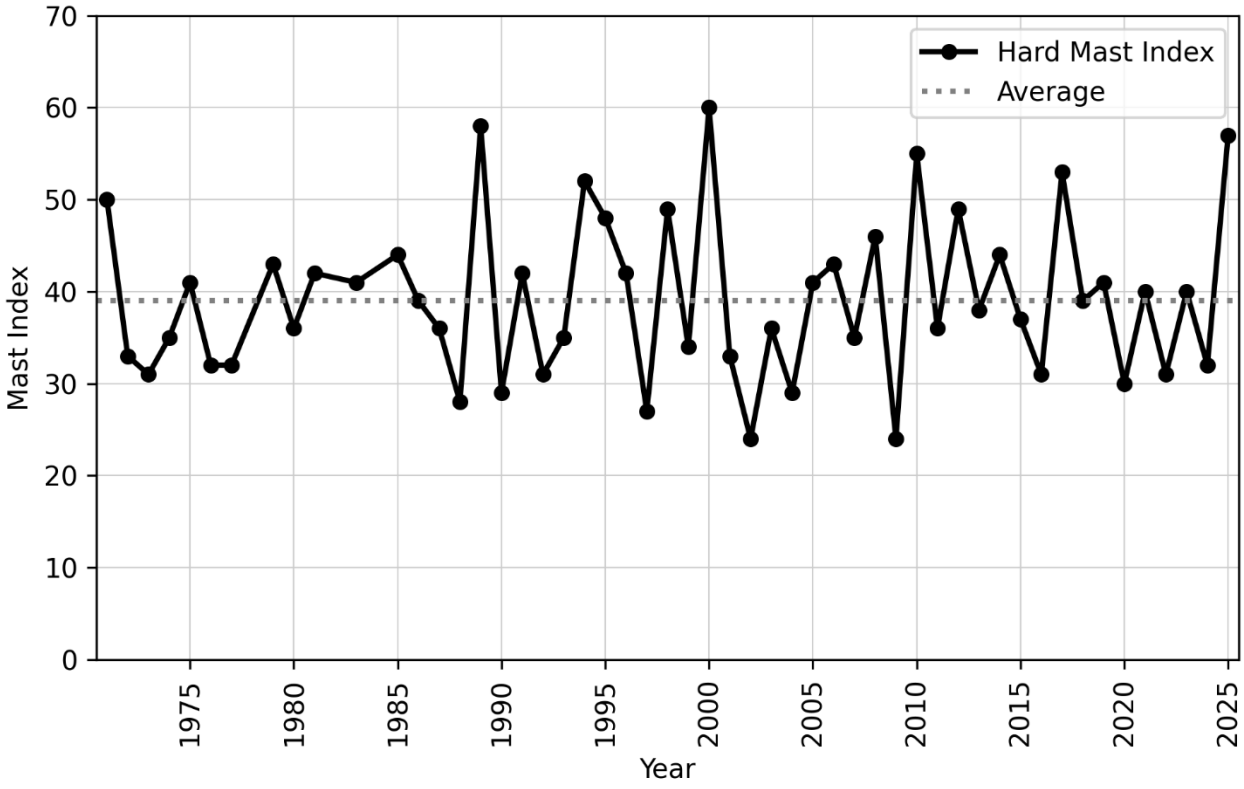
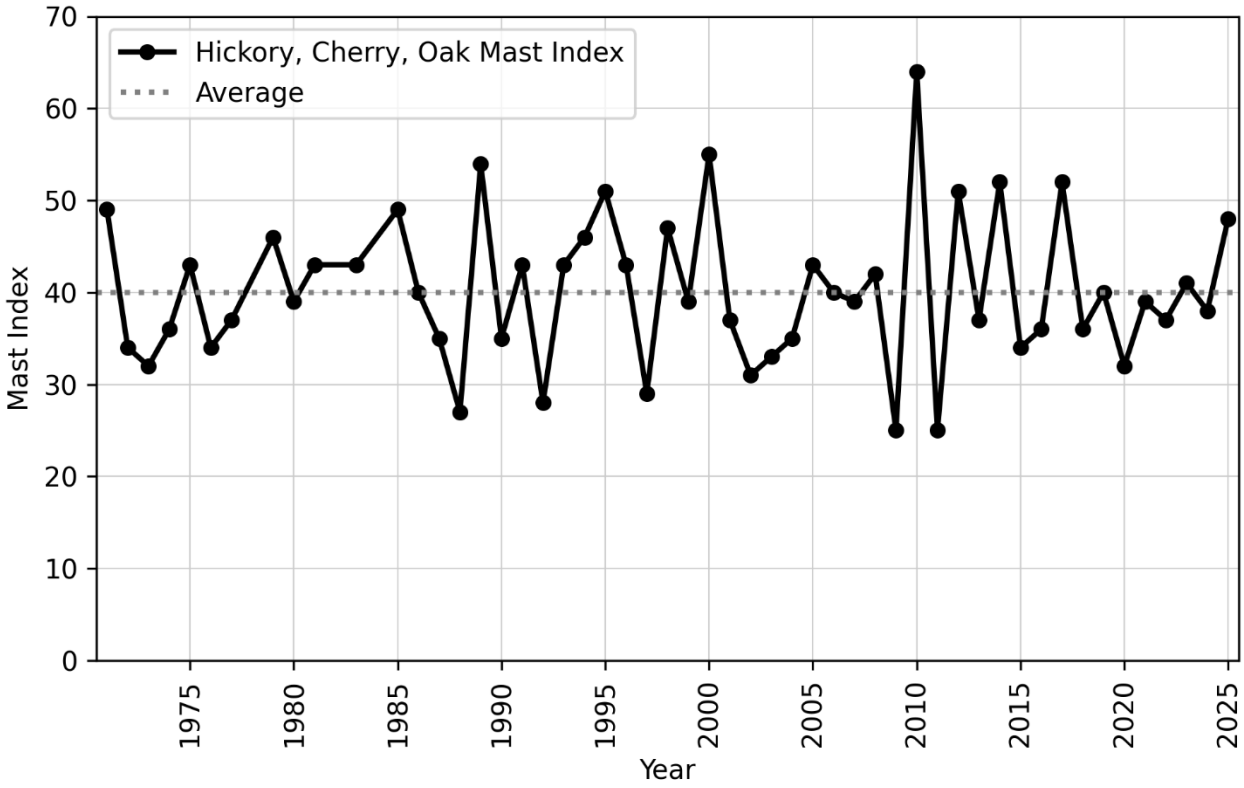


Figure 2. West Virginia **all mast** (top) and **hard mast** (bottom) indexes from 1971 - 2025.



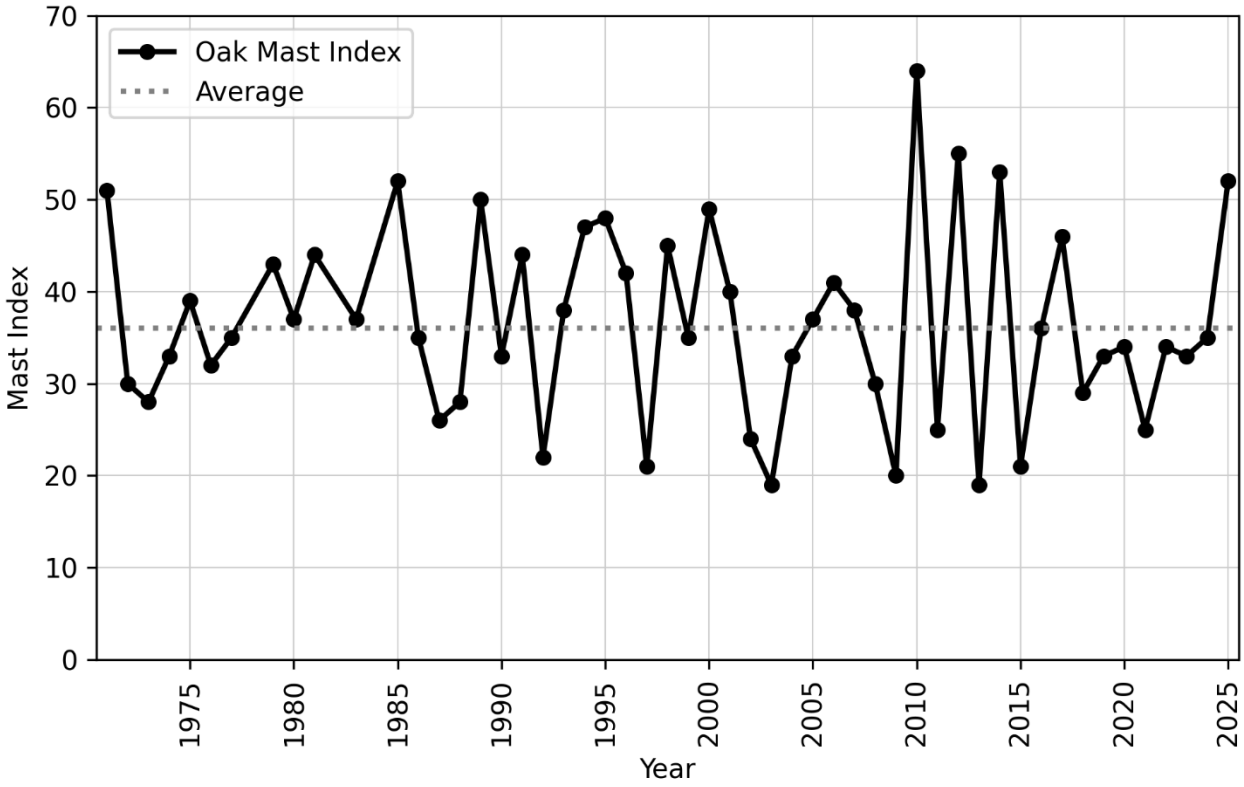


Figure 3. West Virginia **hickory, black cherry, and oak mast** (top) and **oak mast** (bottom) indexes from 1971 - 2025.

APPENDIX

REPORT OF MAST CONDITIONS
2025

See opposite side for instructions

Location: _____ Elevation: _____

Coordinates: _____ Circle one: Low High

County: _____

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ Aspect: _____

Available mast, fruit, etc.

Species	Abundant	Common	Scarce	Not Seen
Beech	☐	☐	☐	☐
Walnut	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hickory	☐	☐	☐	☐
White Oak	☐	☐	☐	☐
Chestnut Oak	☐	☐	☐	☐
Black/Red Oak	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scarlet Oak	☐	☐	☐	☐
Black Cherry	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grapes	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scrub Oak	☐	☐	☐	☐
Yellow Poplar	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hawthorn	☐	☐	☐	☐
Crabapple	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dogwood	☐	☐	☐	☐
Blackberry	☐	☐	☐	☐
Greenbrier	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sassafras	☐	☐	☐	☐
Apple	☐	☐	☐	☐

Remarks: _____

_____

_____

_____

Reporter Name: _____

Division: _____

Address: _____

_____

Instructions for Reporting Mast Conditions

This mast form should be completed with CAPITAL LETTERS using BLACK or DARK BLUE ink. Please print clearly. Characters and marks used should be similar in style to the following:

Location: Please give the nearest post office address or some other adequate description (e.g., Alpena Post Office, or two miles south of Alpena near head of Roaring Creek). Do not give such descriptions as "on the ridge above George Walker's Store."

Coordinates: If able, please provide the coordinates (in decimal degrees or UTMs) of where you conducted your survey.

County: The name of the county in which the survey was conducted.

Elevation: Give the approximate elevation. Please include units (e.g., 2,500 feet). Please circle if this is a high or low elevation survey.

Date: Enter the date (month/day/year) on which the survey was conducted.

Aspect: Cardinal or intercardinal direction (north, east, south, west, northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest).

Available mast, fruit, etc.: Please indicate the relative abundance of each listed species this season by placing an X in the box under the proper column. Do not write any wording such as poor, very poor, or not so good. Place an X in the box under the "species not seen" column if you did not see the tree or shrub species or if the species does not occur in the area you conducted the survey.

Please return the forms by August 31, 2025. Anything received after this deadline will not be able to be included in the analysis and report.

Mail completed forms to:

WV Division of Natural Resources
Mast Survey
PO Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241

Return by August 31, 2025

HUNTING PROSPECT FORM
2025

Instructions: For each listed species, please check whether you think hunting will be better, the same, or poorer than 2024. List the county you are rating below. Complete a separate sheet for each county. Do not check anything if you do not know or if the game species does not occur in your surveyed county. This hunting prospect form should be completed with CAPITAL LETTERS using BLACK or DARK BLUE ink. Please print clearly. Characters and marks used should be similar in style to the following:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ☒ ☑

County rated: _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Hunting Prospects

Game species	Better	Same	Poorer
Squirrel	☐	☐	☐
Rabbit	☐	☐	☐
Grouse	☐	☐	☐
Raccoon	☐	☐	☐
Deer	☐	☐	☐
Turkey	☐	☐	☐
Quail	☐	☐	☐
Bear	☐	☐	☐
Others (list)	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

Remarks: _____

_____

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Reporter Name: _____

Division: _____

Address: _____

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Interested in other research going on at the WVDNR?

https://arcg.is/1GL14v0
Spring Gobbler Survey

https://arcg.is/0yO8KK0
Bowhunter Survey

https://arcg.is/q9DT5
WVDNR Deer Project

https://arcg.is/0aW8X41
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