

Predator Control Calendar

Event	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mustelid (ferret, stoat, weasel) juveniles have left the den, and populations peak. Consider increased trap servicing.	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●											
Hot temps and increased microbe/insect activity. Good time to move to mutton fat as bait in DOC200 traps.	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●											
Whio juveniles start to fledge. Adults begin to moult, leaving them particularly vulnerable. Increase stoat trap servicing.		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■										
Second clutch kiwi chicks emerge from the nest. Increase stoat control.		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■										
Wasp numbers start to increase, caution is required. Deploy Vespex® bait stations.		● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●										
Beech mast starts to hit the ground.			■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■									
Rodent populations have started to increase exponentially. Good time to pulse bait.			● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●									
Major possum mating period for the year. Juveniles are dispersing. Opportunity to exploit promiscuity (use possum 'night clubs'). Pulse bait in bait stations. Rebait and set kill traps.			● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●									
Annual deer roar, lots of hunters in the bush — caution required.			◁ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷									
Domestic pip-fruit (apples, pears) and nuts are coming on stream. Possums are active in orchards, place traps or bait stations on popular trees.			■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■									
Cooler weather starts to bring rodents inside houses and buildings. Set up traps and bait stations inside in anticipation.				● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●								
Podocarp mast ripe, adding to rodent population growth.				■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■								
Duck shooting on many wetlands and aquatic environments (lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries). Consider using duck carcasses as bait for cat & mustelid control as they will be occurring in the natural environment.				▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷ ▷								
Best time to take a holiday from predator free mahi.						♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥						
Possums are active in winter green crops. Target crops for possum control (night shooting) or trapping on possum runs heading into crops.							● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●					
Cat breeding season begins, kittens in dens. Dumping of domestic kittens common at this time of year.							● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●					
Time to start ramping up rodent control (pulse baiting) for spring. Rodents hungry as beech mast/podocarp fruit disappears. Rodents need to be reduced under 2–5% Tracking Index by 1 October, depending on outcomes sought.							● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●					
Undertake possum control together with rodent control. For example, pulse bait in bait stations, rebait and set kill traps.							● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●					
Intensive rabbit shooting will reduce the survival of spring juveniles', limiting mustelid and cat population increases.							● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●					
Start increasing mustelid/stoat trap servicing to protect spring bird breeding.							● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●					
Now is a good time to clean & recalibrate your DOC200 traps. They should activate at about 80g plate trigger weight.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Weather cool, low microbe and insect activity. Best time to use fresh meat baits in DOC200s.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Possums are eating pine catkins. Target big old pines for possum control, night shooting in open terrain or trapping in the bush.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Second possum mate period, opportunity to exploit promiscuity (possum night-clubs); pulse bait in bait stations; rebait and set kill traps.								● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●				
First-clutch kiwi chicks emerge from the nest. Active stoat trapping is essential.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Whio hens start nesting. Lost nests will see second clutching well into November.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Forest bird nesting ramps up for the next 4–5 months. Rodent indices should be at an annual low (2%). Intensive predator control is required.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Eggs common in the landscape, best time to use fresh egg baits in traps. Blow eggs at trap entrance. Ensure the egg shell is horizontal on the nails. Dirty hen or duck eggs covered in poop are best.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Willow/Larch bud break. Great night shooting opportunities for possum control in open terrain.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Kowhai flowering. Good time to target possums on kowhai trees.							■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■					
Female stoats start breeding. Kittens in the den, lots of prey predated. Consider increased trap servicing.							● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●					
Mustelid (ferret, stoat, weasel) juveniles start leaving the nest — populations begin to peak. Consider increased trap servicing.								● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●				
Hot temps & increased microbe/insect activity. Good time to move back to mutton fat as bait in DOC200 traps.								● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●				



* Possum 'night clubs' can be created at sites that might attract possums from distance i.e. on the edge of clearings, ridgelines, etc. Prefeeding over a week to 10 days attracts increasing numbers of possums for food and social interaction. The increased possum traffic can then be targeted with multiple traps at the site or toxin bait stations (Feratox®/Double-Tap®/Feratol®).

** 'Pulse' baiting = feeding a set amount (300–500g for possums) of bait (eg. Feracol®/Double-Tap®) once per month, to avoid over-feeding and to reduce bait shyness from over exposure to damp/mouldy bait. Remove all uneaten bait when refilling. Dispose of unused bait as per label instructions.

- Environmental cues
- Pest cues
- ▷ Social/human cues
- ♥ Take a well-earned break!