

# Growth curves for replacement hinds

Bodyweight has a huge impact on pregnancy rates for R2 hinds. They have to reach target liveweights to enter puberty and start cycling. Well-grown R2 hinds are able to raise a fawn, but a low reproduction rate in poorly grown R2 hinds is a lost opportunity for some deer farmers.

The growth curves on this wall planner give a mob-average growth path for replacement hinds to meet the required target weight at the start of mating for 95% pregnancy. Curves are given for genetics corresponding to hind mature weights of 130kg (red line), 120kg (green line) and 110kg (blue line).

Pick the curve that is closest to the mature weight of your breeding hinds. Use it to set weight targets, and to monitor your replacement hinds against, to ensure you achieve the target weight by the start of mating. The bars on the right of the graph show the impact of lower mating weights on expected pregnancy rates for each of the three mature-weight groups.

If you choose to aim for a lower pregnancy rate, you would target a lower mob average liveweight. For example, for 120kg adult hinds, achieving 75% pregnancy would require R2 hinds averaging 90kgs at the start of mating.

Achieving the target weight by mating is more important than how you get there. Limitations of particular seasons on your farm may mean you need to follow a different pathway. For example, where summer is dry or unreliable it makes sense to maximise spring growth to get ahead of the curve by the start of summer, and budget on lower weight gain over summer.

**Regular monitoring over the summer is vital to ensure your replacement hinds remain on track.**

**Want to predict your R2 pregnancy rates?**

Use the hind growth curve

[www.deernz.org/replacement-hind-growth-curves](http://www.deernz.org/replacement-hind-growth-curves)  
to see the impact hind weight has on expected pregnancy rates and create your own growth curves.

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This wall planner and the interactive growth curves have been developed with funding from the deer industry's Primary Growth Partnership programme.

Seasonal average daily growth rates by genotype

