

Ngan'gi Seasons

Northern Territory – Australia

Wurr bengin tyerrfal
Start of wurr panagalan (speargrass) cycle. The time when speargrass seeds begin to shoot.
Amisyawuni (stick insect) comes out. Misyawuni (bush potato) available for gathering. River is clear.
Anganifinyi (echidna) and anganfepininimbi (rock python) fattening up.

Wurr wirribem dudutyamu
The season when wurmuy (speargrass seed heads) are swollen and hanging heavily. Taddo is when the wurmuy knock together and open up – telling you rainfall is nearing the end. The River is at maximum height – come into Nauiyu by boat.

Wudupunyurritn
Wurmuy are puffing open. When the river rises it's time to collect fruit. Good fruiting season.

Wurr wirribem filgarri
That time of the year when speargrass stalks start to die and turn a reddish colour – a sign the dry season is coming. Seeds are still intact.

Wurr bengim miyerr
Aymisi (dragongflies) arrive to greet the new season and tell people the dry season is coming. Aymisi also tell people it's a good time for barramundi fishing.

Minimindi (waterlily) opening up
– The smell of the lily on the wind clears, cleans the air and the spirit.

Wadai (flying fox) babies are seen clinging to their mothers.
All the seeds have fallen from storms knock down speargrass.

Speargrass is dead and dry and ready for burning.

Kudede
First rains, very start of monsoons and the wet season. Angaga (tree frog) comes out.
Mundupan (green ant queens) ready for eating.

Lirrimem
Very humid period of 'build-up' just before thunder is heard. River water is warm. After (circadas) singing/calling out for rain.
Miringgi margu ('new leaves' = newborn ewermisye).
Ewerimisye (freshwater crocodiles) hatch with the shoots of new tree leaves and leave the nest for their first feed.

Munggun munggunny (whirlwind) season.
Yernwurmubi (ghost gum) bark starts peeling – sharks are fat and ready to catch. When the River is really low – good time for adany (shark), emelpe (stingray) and sawfish.

Yirmg (pig nosed turtle) is laying eggs. Memenwirri is the season name that refers to yirmg constantly lifting her feet as she lays her eggs in the hot burning sand.
Magga (fig tree) fruiting and yirmg eating it.

Dumy (fruiting)
Vermanggi (freshwater mangrove) flowering.

Fungguli (native honey)
Fungguli (native honey)

Ngunguwe
Ngunguwe means 'mirage'. It is very hot and humid with no rain. A heat shimmer can be seen during the middle of the day. Burrowing animals retreat to their holes – telling people Lirrimem is coming.
Pods of yeninggisyi are brown and starting to hatch.
Yernwurmubi (ghost gum) babbles ready to catch.

Walkity denta
Yernwurmubi and yeninggisyi (red kapok) flowering – collect ewermisye (fresh water crocodile) eggs which are being laid now.

Wurr bengin derripal
During Wurr bengin derripal you can hear the atalmerr (barramundi) 'chomping' on baitfish that have swum down the creeks into the River.

Wurr bengin derripal
Dry season and burning grass time. Black ash from the first fires is on the ground. Good feeling about going hunting and looking for turtle as you don't get too hot.
Angantyamu (bush turkey) emerging hunting time.
Dagum – the fog and dew that are present in the mornings. The fog a good sign to go fishing.
Young birds are seen. Eperper (burdekin ducks) are seen walking in single file with their young.
Akingi (mosquitoes) and anganisyi (king brown) emerge with the sea breeze. Time of the north-westerly sea breeze and turtle hunting in the evenings.

Wurr tisyari
Spear grass is dead and dry and ready for burning.

Wurr bengim miyerr
Wadai (flying fox) babies are seen clinging to their mothers.
All the seeds have fallen from storms knock down speargrass.

Wurr wirribem filgarri
That time of the year when speargrass stalks start to die and turn a reddish colour – a sign the dry season is coming. Seeds are still intact.

Wudupunyurritn
Wurmuy are puffing open. When the river rises it's time to collect fruit. Good fruiting season.

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Wurr bengin tyerrfal
Start of wurr panagalan (speargrass) cycle. The time when speargrass seeds begin to shoot.
Amisyawuni (stick insect) comes out. Misyawuni (bush potato) available for gathering. River is clear.
Anganifinyi (echidna) and anganfepininimbi (rock python) fattening up.

At the first sounds of thunder old people feel sad for those who have passed away over the year. The first rain is seen to wash away the footprints in the sand of those who have died and is a time of healing and looking to the future. It is a good sign if a baby is born, takes its first steps or says its first word as the first thunder sounds.

Awin (black bream) favour migemininy (bush apple) when it falls into the River.

Ngambaty is the tide – 'a big arm herding the fish upstream', replenishing food resources in the River.

Anganisyi (king brown) mates during Lirrimem.

The seed heads of **minimindi** (waterlily) and **miwulngini** (red lotus lily) are collected from billabongs during the dry season months.

Mudskippers are seen until the first rains.

Ngan'gi ecological knowledge contributors:
Patricia Marrfurra McTaggart, Molly Yawulminy,
Catherine Ariuu, Dorothy Daning, Kitty Kamarama,
Benigna Ngulfundi, Maureen Warrumburr, Mercia Wawul.

Compilation and Production: Emma Woodward (CSIRO).
Images: Auscape, David Curl, Greg Miles, Rob Wyatt (woollybutt), Jiri Lochman: Lochman Transparencies (king brown), Gunther Schmida: Lochman Transparencies (barramundi), Skyscans (bush cucumber in hands), Peter Christophersen.
Design and layout: First Class in Graphic Design.

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Wurr wirribem filgarri
That time of the year when speargrass stalks start to die and turn a reddish colour – a sign the dry season is coming. Seeds are still intact.

Wurr bengim miyerr
Aiywisi (dragons) arrive to greet the new season and tell people the dry season is coming. Aiywisi also tell people it's a good time for barramundi fishing.

Wurr bengin derripal
All the seeds have fallen from wurmuy. Electrical 'knock em down' storms knock Wadat (flying fox) babies are seen clinging to their mothers.

Wurr tisari
Speargrass is dead and dry and ready for burning.

Wirrir marrgu
Dry season and burning grass time. Black ash from the first fires is on the ground. Good feeling about going hunting and looking for turtle as you don't get too hot.
Anganyamu (bush turkey) emerging hunting time.
Young birds are seen. Epperin (burdekin ducks) are seen walking in single file with their young.
Dagum – the fog and dew that are present in the mornings. The fog a good sign to go fishing.

Wangi
Time of the north-westerly sea breeze and turtle hunting in the evenings. A peaceful wind that brings good fishing and turtle hunting in the evenings.
Aiywisi (mosquitoes) and anganifinyi (king brown) emerge with the sea breeze.

Walkity denta
Yernwumbi and yeningisyi (red kapok) flowering – collect evermisyi (fresh water crocodile) eggs which are being laid now.

Ngunguwe
Ngunguwe means 'mirage'. It is very hot and humid with no rain. A heat-shimmer can be seen during the middle of the day. Burrowing animals retreat to their holes – telling people Lirrimem is coming.
Pods of yeningisyi are brown and starting to hatch. Yernwumbi (ghost gum) bark starts peeling – sharks are fat and ready to catch. When the River is really low – good time for adany (shark), emelpe (stingray) and sawfish.

Lirrimem
Very humid period of 'build-up' just before thunder is heard. River water is warm. After (circadas) singing/calling out for rain. 'Miringgi marrgu' (new leaves = newborn evermisyi).
Evermisyi (freshwater crocodiles) hatch with the shoots of new tree leaves and leave the nest for their first feed.

Kudede
First rains. Very start of monsoons and the wet season. Angaga (tree frog) comes out.
Mundupan (green ant queens) ready for eating.

Funguli (native honey)
Funguli (native honey) is the center of the cycle.

Nauiyu - Daly River
NORTHERN TERRITORY - AUSTRALIA

At the first sounds of thunder old people feel sad for those who have passed away over the year. The first rain is seen to wash away the footprints in the sand of those who have died and is a time of healing and looking to the future. It is a good sign if a baby is born, takes its first steps or says its first word as the first thunder sounds.

During Wurr bengin derripal you can hear the **atalmerr** (barramundi) 'chomping' on baitfish that have swum down the creeks into the River.

The seed heads of minimindi (waterlily) and **miwulngini** (red lotus lily) are collected from billabongs during the dry season months.

Ngambaty is the tide – 'a big arm herding the fish upstream', replenishing food resources in the River.

Anganisyi (king brown) mates during **Lirrimem**.

Awin (black bream) favour **migemininy** (bush apple) when it falls into the River.

Mudskippers are seen until the first rains.

Yerrwire (woollybutt) flowers during **Wirrir marrgu**, attracting **akerre** (the native honey bee).
Yerrwire flavoured **fungguli** (native honey) is found in tree hollows, old ant nests and in ground hives during this time.

Compilation and Production: Emma Woodward (CSIRO).
Images: Auscape, David Curl, Greg Miles, Rob Wyatt (woollybutt), Jiri Lochman: Lochman Transparencies (king brown), Gunther Schmida: Lochman Transparencies (barramundi), Skyscans (bush cucumber in hands), Peter Christophersen.
Design and layout: First Class in Graphic Design.

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Anganifinyi (echidna) and anganfeppinimbi (rock python) fattening up.

Wurr wirribem dudutyamu
The season when wurrmuy (speargrass seed heads) are swollen and hanging heavily. Taddo is when the wurrmuy knock together and open up – telling you rainfall is nearing the end. The River is at maximum height – come into Nauiyu by boat.

Wudupuntyurritu
Wurrmuy are puffing open. 'When the river rises it's time to collect fruit'. Good fruiting season.

Wurr wirribem filgarri
That time of the year when speargrass stalks start to die and turn a reddish colour – a sign the dry season is coming. Seeds are still intact.

Wurr bengim miyerr
Aiywisi (dragongrass) arrive to greet the new season and tell people the dry season is coming. Aiywisi also tell people it's a good time for barramundi fishing.

Wurr bengin derripal
All the seeds have fallen from wurrmuy. Wadat (flying fox) babies are seen clinging to their mothers.

Wurr tisari
Speargrass is dead and dry and ready for burning.

Wirrir marrgu
Dry season and burning grass time. Black ash from the first fires is on the ground. Good feeling about going hunting and looking for turtle as you don't get too hot.

Wangi
Time of the north-westerly sea breeze and turtle hunting in the evenings. Aiywisi (mosquitoes) and anganifinyi (king brown) emerge with the sea breeze.

Walkity denta
Yerrwumbi and yeninggisyi (red kapok) flowering – collect evermisyi (fresh water crocodile) eggs which are being laid now.

Ngunguwe
Ngunguwe means 'mirage'. It is very hot and during the middle of the day. Burrowing animals retreat to their holes – telling people Lirimem is coming.
Pods of yeninggisyi are brown and starting to hatch. Yerrwumbi (ghost gum) bark starts peeling – sharks are fat and ready to catch. When the River is really low – good time for adany (shark), emelpe (stingray) and sawfish.

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Evermisyi (freshwater crocodiles) hatch with the shoots of new tree leaves and leave the nest for their first feed.

Kudede
First rains. Very start of monsoons and the wet season. Angaga (tree frog) comes out.
Mundupan (green ant queens) ready for eating.

Funguli (native honey)
Funguli (native honey) is the center of the cycle.

Nauiyu - Daly River
NORTHERN TERRITORY - AUSTRALIA

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During Wurr bengin derripal you can hear the **atalmerr** (barramundi) 'chomping' on baitfish that have swum down the creeks into the River.

Yerrwire (woollybutt) flowers during **Wirrir marrgu**, attracting **akerre** (the native honey bee).

Yerrwire flavoured **fungguli** (native honey) is found in tree hollows, old ant nests and in ground hives during this time.

Mudskippers are seen until the first rains.

Awin (black bream) favour **migemininy** (bush apple) when it falls into the River.

Ngambaty is the tide – 'a big arm herding the fish upstream', replenishing food resources in the River.

Anganisyi (king brown) mates during **Lirimem**.

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Wurr tisari
Speargrass is dead and dry and ready for burning.

Wirrir marrgu
Dry season and burning grass time. Black ash from the first fires is on the ground. Good feeling about going hunting and looking for turtle as you don't get too hot.

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Time of the north-westerly sea breeze and turtle hunting in the evenings. Aiywisi (mosquitoes) and anganifinyi (king brown) emerge with the sea breeze.

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Yerrwire flavoured **fungguli** (native honey) is found in tree hollows, old ant nests and in ground hives during this time.

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Ngambaty is the tide – 'a big arm herding the fish upstream', replenishing food resources in the River.

Anganisyi (king brown) mates during **Lirimem**.

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