

A Calendar of Seasonal Information

Re-afforestation
Horticulture
Landcare
Indigenous Land
Management

For Use on the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara
&
Ngaanyatjarra Lands

Introduction

This book has been produced as an aid for those living and working on the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra Lands. It contains Land Management information relevant to Re-afforestation, Horticulture, Landcare and Indigenous Land Management.

During the 1990's a number of newsletters were produced by the author in which seasonal information was published for each month of the year. That information has been edited and is now available in this single publication. It includes topics like, when to sow vegetable seeds, monthly weather information, the best months for patch burning and lots more.

The author gathered this information over many years and has found it to be relevant in other parts of Central Australia as well as for the Lands. It is by no means a complete seasonal calendar but rather a "work in progress". Hence those who read this book may wish to contribute their own experience and may do so by using the contact details below. Everyone making a contribution will be acknowledged.

I trust that this book will be of value to those living in Communities and Homelands across the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

M.W. Last

September 2005

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Land Management

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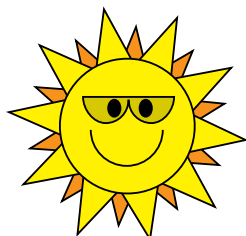
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First Edition: Spring 2001

January

Weather Conditions

January is usually a very hot month in Central Australia with maximum day temperatures between 36°C and 44°C. It is not uncommon to experience a period of between eight and fourteen continuous days with daily maximum temperatures between 38°C and 44°C. This period usually occurs in January but it may occur in February.



Thunderstorm activity can also occur and if it rains, conditions can be very humid and unpleasant.

Plant Diseases

If humid conditions prevail, watch for Downy and Powdery Mildew appearing on grape vines. These are fungal diseases and are easily cured by spraying vines with a copper spray or an equivalent fungicide (Mancozeb).

Hot Wildfires

If you have prepared well in the cooler months of the year, hot wildfires will be less of a problem around your community than for those who have not prepared.

Care should be taken when lighting fires while travelling between communities. If camp fires are left unattended, then the possibility of starting hot

wildfires is very real.

In the early 1970's, one third of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands were burnt out in January by hot wildfires during very hot windy conditions. Road graders working on the south Stuart Highway were brought in to cut fire breaks to slow the fire down. This was effective, however whirlwinds during the day simply lifted hot embers from the burnt areas and distributed them over unburnt land causing the fires to continue. Hence great care should be taken to prevent hot wildfires.

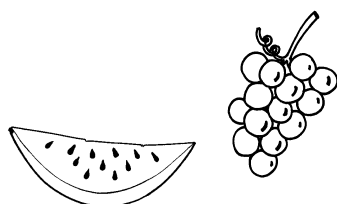


Tropical Cyclones

January can also be a very wet month especially if cyclonic weather patterns bring large amounts of moist air into Central Australia from the north west coast of the continent. These very wet conditions produce large volumes of vegetation which in turn, create an enormous fire hazard. Communities and Homelands should ensure that slashing equipment is kept in working order during the summer months so excess growth can be controlled.

Holidays

January is part of the Christmas-New Year Season and many people take holidays during this period. Because of the heat, gardens, trees and shrubs can suffer if they are not cared for. Arrangements should be made for plants to receive minimal care while people are away on leave. These precautions will protect programs until the holiday period is over.



The Fruit of the Season

January is the month of the long siesta when most people rest or take a holiday. It's also grape and watermelon season.

- Enjoy -

Community Management

Because January is a holiday month, Communities should plan to complete most seasonal activities before Christmas. This will reduce the threat of major disasters occurring in January. People remaining in the community will have less to manage and some siesta time as well.

February

Weather Conditions

February is usually as hot as January with maximum day temperatures between 36°C and 44°C. Over a thirty year period, there would only be four to five years in which cooler conditions were experienced during this month.

Thunderstorm activity tends to occur more in February than January. Conditions become very humid and unpleasant, however thunderstorms are not a seasonal event in February. Rain is often generated from low pressure systems which move across the Western Australian coastline and sweep through Central Australia. The point at which these weather patterns cross the coastline determines the areas of Central Australia which receive rain.

February can also be a very dry month. It should be noted that the southern part of Central Australia is subject to both summer and winter rainfall patterns, however these patterns are very irregular and not seasonally reliable.

Plant Diseases

If humid conditions prevail, watch for Downy and Powdery Mildew appearing on grape vines. These are fungal diseases and are easily cured by spraying vines with a copper spray or an equivalent fungicide.



Grasses and Weeds

If good falls of rain are received, the growth of grasses and weeds is very rapid. Control measures need to be taken quickly or gardens and community areas become over grown with vegetation. Slashers and brush cutters need to be serviced and kept ready for use.

Hot Wildfires

If summer rains have produced large volumes of fuel in the form of dry grass, great care should be exercised re-the use of fire in communities and homelands. If material in rubbish dumps is being burnt during this time, care should be taken to burn in the evening or on days which are more suitable.

Vegetables

The end of February is a good time to plant winter vegetable seeds. Cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli all mature as the day length shortens. The growing period for these vegetables is 10 to 15 weeks depending on the variety. Seed sown this month will produce early crops.

Mulching

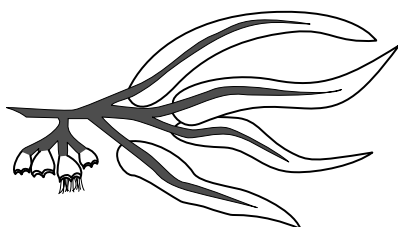
If summer rains have produced good quantities of weeds, then this provides a good opportunity to harvest them for use as mulch in gardens.

Direct Seeding Work

This is often a good month to begin direct seeding programs. Because of the heat, other programs are in recess and people are free to operate the direct seeding machinery. If these projects are programmed for this month, they are usually planned and organised during the previous November or earlier.

Planning

Because this month is hot, it's a good time to reflect and make new plans for landscaping and gardening within the community or homeland. Tree growing programs can be planned for the cooler months and inquiries can be made about tree purchases.



Ordering Trees & Shrubs

Begin Ordering Trees and Shrubs from Your local Plant Nursery for a March Planting Program.

March

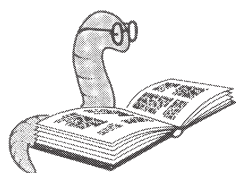
Weather Conditions

The weather patterns in March are interesting because this month can be as hot as February. Some years the heat continues to the end of the month and it's April before there is any relief from high temperatures. However it can be expected that day temperatures will be in the low 30's. This may not happen in the first half of the month, however it can be expected that southern weather patterns will bring some cooler air into Central Australia at this time.

Once again summer rainfall patterns can yield some good falls of rain from the north west. Cylones in the top end and Queensland can bring rain from the north and north east of the continent to the Centre.

Plant Diseases

If humid conditions prevail, watch for Downy and Powdery Mildew growing on grape vines. These are fungal diseases and are easily cured by spraying vines with a copper spray or an equivalent fungicide. Usually the fruit has been picked by this time and the mildew has less effect.



Earthworms are good for Soils

- * They break up organic material
- * They mix these organic materials into the soil
- * They break up root mats in pastures and thick layers of leaf litter
- * They increase microbial activity in the soil
- * They increase the availability to plants of nutrients in the soils and organic matter
- * They improve the crumb structure of the soil, and so
- * Increase the amount of water that can be held in the soil
- * They allow better penetration of plant roots, oxygen and water into the soil
- * They increase crop yields
- * They help reclaim land (including mine dumps) by increasing soil fertility

Grasses and Weeds

Growth of grasses and weeds need to be checked especially if rain received this month is follow-up rain from January or February. Once again slashers and brush cutters need to be serviced and kept ready for use.

Hot Wildfires

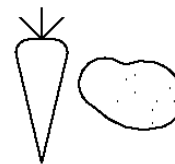
These can be devastating at this time of the year if grasses have continued to grow over the summer period. However if the conditions have been very dry, then any growth of grass resulting from December rains will have hayed off and blown away.

Tree Planting

Because the cooler months are approaching, tree planting programs can begin in earnest. The warmer weather during this period is a great asset and will promote good growth if trees and shrubs are planted this month. They need to be watered regularly while the plants are young and the weather is hot.

Vegetables

Continue to plant carrots, beetroot, onions and winter vegetables while the soil is still hot. Provided they are watered well and fertilised, good growth will be achieved before the cooler weather sets in. Organic fertilisers and animal manures are great to use in arid zone soils. Plant Broadbean seeds now for an early crop.



Mulching

This is a good time of the year to re-build old mulch systems around fruit trees and grape vines. During the Spring and Summer months, mulches degrade as they decay and are exposed to the summer heat. The weather is still warm, which is suitable for renewing old mulches.

Direct Seeding Work

Any direct seeding work which is outstanding can be completed in the first half of the month. Seed planted at this time has an opportunity to germinate after late summer rain. Good results have been obtained from programs completed in March.

April

Weather Conditions

Summer has now passed and April is the first of the cooler months of the year. Maximum day temperatures range between 27 and 33 °C. Cool weather can be experienced if the high and low pressure systems direct cold air in over Central Australia.

Cyclonic depressions over the top end and Queensland can direct moist air in over the Centre from the north. Hence some very wet weather can be experienced during this month, however this is not a regular pattern for April.

This month is still warm and it's a good time to complete many outstanding activities before the full force of the cold weather is felt. Technically, March is the first month of Autumn, however Autumn conditions are usually not experienced until April.



Vegetables

The soil is still warm so advantage should be taken of this situation. If winter vegetable seeds are planted now they will germinate quicker than in the cooler months to follow.

Fruit Trees

The fruit on citrus begins ripening in late May-June. At this time of the year, fruit size will be increasing rapidly, so trees need irrigating regularly.

Deciduous fruit trees and vines are close to losing their leaves, hence it's not necessary to irrigate them with large amounts of water. Keep the soil moist around them as they approach dormancy.

Trees and Shrubs

If tree planting programs have been organised, use all the spare time available to plant. The warm weather will stimulate growth and help the plants become established before the winter months arrive.

Cuttings

The Autumn period in Central Australia is very short (3-4 weeks) and it's a good time to establish cuttings of ground covers and other evergreen plants. Grow the cuttings in coarse sand and provide protection for them if the nights are cold. Keep them protected from cold winds during the day.



Community Budget !!

April is a good month to check out the community budget and plan the use of any surplus funds.

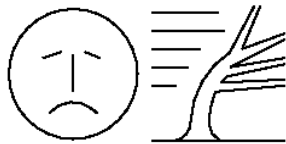
May

Weather Conditions

May is a very interesting month of the year weather-wise. It can be warm or quite cold for the whole month before the onset of winter. May is definitely the month between Autumn and Winter as one can never be sure when the day temperatures will fall below 20°C.

Pre-winter rains can fall this month, however they don't contribute much to the growth of plants if the weather is cold. Rain in April and early May provides the much needed moisture for the germination of wildflowers for winter.

People need to be aware that frosts can be experienced in late May. This is not a regular occurrence, however it's always a possibility.



Vegetables

Early May is the last opportunity to plant winter vegetable seeds. It's also the last opportunity to plant and germinate carrot and onion seeds to produce a late Winter or early Spring crop.

Salt



Salt can't be seen in drinking water or in the water used to irrigate plants. How do we know the quantity of salt that is in our water? Telephone or fax the Projects Section of the Pitjantjatjara Council Resource Centre in Alice Springs, as they have all this information. Ring the office now Tel. 89505413 or Fax. 89534580

Fruit Trees

All deciduous trees and vines will begin losing their leaves this month. Because of the dry conditions in Central Australia, the leaves of deciduous plants can vary in colour from light yellow to maroon.

Mulching

Advantage should be taken of the supply of fallen leaves from mulberry, fig, grape vines and other plants. Use these leaves to make mulch around fruit trees and vines or add them to compost bins.

Frost Protection

Plants like tomatoes are frost sensitive and if fruit is slowly ripening, then cover plants with a piece of canvas each evening to prevent frost damage. Materials like cement blocks, when dry staked around tomato bushes on the southern, eastern and western sides, provide a measure of frost protection.

Roses

For those people who are interested in growing a few roses in their garden, this is the time of the year to purchase them from Supermarkets and Garden Centres. Roses grow well in the centre and produce lovely flowers which burn quickly if exposed to windy conditions. These conditions normally occur in the Spring months.



Roses also produce lovely blooms under shade cloth or in a shade house.

June

Weather Conditions

This month is very cold with maximum day temperatures ranging between 14 and 19°C. Over night temperatures are around zero or just above. Four or five sub-zero temperatures can be experienced each winter with minimums down to minus 5°C.

Black frosts are not common, however do occur every seven to ten years. This condition will burn the leaves off trees like eucalypts.

June can be a miserable month if rain is combined with chilly winds. Often on sunny days, if winds have a high chill factor, conditions are bleak.

Frosty conditions may occur early in the month, however are more likely to occur in the second half of the month.



Work Programs

Wintery conditions detract from completing work programs. This is why it's better to take advantage of the warmer weather conditions in April and early May. The days are very short during June and everybody is busy securing enough fire wood to keep themselves warm.



It's Pruning Time !!

Yes - It's that time of the year again. Time to check out pruning tools and find the fact sheet on pruning grape vines. If help is needed, contact the local Horticultural Adviser.

Vegetables

For the early birds who planted winter vegetable seed in late February, crops should be ready for harvesting this month. Crops like silver beat continue to grow through the Winter unaffected by cold frosty conditions. Tomatoes will frost off this month and hopefully the remaining fruit on the vines will be partially ripe.

Cuttings

Any leaves remaining on deciduous trees and vines will fall during June. It's an advantage to receive a touch of Winter in late May to begin the chilling process on the fruiting buds of fruit trees and vines.

Usually the first frost burns the leaves off sweet potato vines. When this occurs, don't hesitate to take cuttings and bury them in moist creek sand or wood shavings. They can be uncovered in the spring and planted out for the new season.

Cuttings of grape, mulberry, fig, pomegranate etc should be made toward the end of June. This is important in the case of mulberries, because the new season buds can begin bursting as early as mid-July. Once cuttings are made, they should be buried in moist creek sand or wood shavings to preserve them for the remainder of the winter. During this time the buds callous and begin producing small leaves and roots in preparation for planting out as cuttings in the Spring.

Patch Burning

If lots of dry grass has accumulated around communities and homelands, then this is the time of the year to begin planning patch burning programs. The rangeland may have a high fuel load as well and it will be necessary to plan some area patch burning programs to manage this fuel load.

Equipment for patch burning needs to be serviced and kept ready for use. In some cases it may be more appropriate to slash dry grass, rather than burn it.

The right weather conditions for patch burning do not occur every day. This is why a program needs to be planned so other programs can be postponed if conditions are favorable.

July

Weather Conditions

July is often the coolest month of the year. However it's not uncommon to experience 2-3 days of warm spring weather. This can be confusing to plants and give them the wrong signals, as more cold weather will follow.

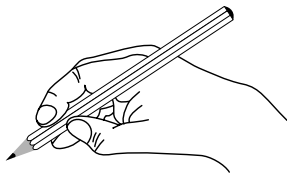
Weather conditions can deteriorate if rain periods are experienced. However, Central Australia is known for its sunny winter days and cold winter nights. Frosty conditions occur after rain.

Vegetables

Winter vegetables planted earlier in the year will begin maturing this month. It's still too cold to think about planting the seed of summer crops this month.

Cuttings

Often school holidays interfere with pruning programs at the end of June. If this is the case, don't delay pruning beyond July. If the season begins to warm early, the sap will begin to rise and if pruning is delayed, plants will bleed heavily from the pruned stems and spurs.



Have You Made a Plan of Your Garden ?

Many people want advice about the types of trees and shrubs to grow in their yards and gardens. Draw a plan on a piece of paper with some measurements of the garden or yard, and then talk to your local adviser about your ideas and how they can be achieved.

Patch Burning

If patch burning programs have been delayed, then take advantage and begin them during the time available in July. The warmer weather that can be experienced this month produces ideal conditions for patch burning. Don't delay with this important program.

Planning Work

July is also a good month to begin making plans for the Spring and Summer months. Because some days are too cold to work, it's much easier to walk around gardens and communities and assess the work that needs to be done. A plan can be written and posted on the notice board in the office for every body to see and comment about.

It's useful to include other important events, so work programs don't conflict with other community activities.

Tree Planting

Although July is cold, it's still a good time of the year to plant trees and shrubs. Growth is slow, however plants are ready to take advantage of the first warm weather of Spring.

This will help the plants to establish well, before the onset of Summer.

August

Weather Conditions

August is the last month of winter and a transition from colder to warmer weather can be expected. During the second or third week, day temperatures usually increase to the low to mid twenties.

Usually August is frost free, however one or two seasons in ten will experience late frost. These conditions will destroy the fruit already set on Mulberry trees. After the tree recovers there will be a second bud burst producing new fruit for the season.

Late winter rains can occur, however they are not seasonal.

Vegetables

Begin preparing to plant summer vegetable seed. If the spring season opens early with warm weather in August, then seeds can be planted. However the soil is still cold and melons like watermelon and rockmelon should be planted toward the end of September. Melon seeds are generally larger seeds and will decay rather than germinate when planted in cold wet soil .

Trees and Shrubs

Old Man Saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*) seed needs to be planted no later than the first week of August. If planted at this time, good germination can be

expected because the last chill of winter stimulates germination. The same applies for desert cyprus seed (*Callitris glaucophylla*).

Grape Pruning

Although grape vines should have been pruned by now, it's still possible to prune those which have missed out. As the sap rises the plant will bleed profusely until the ends of the stems heal over. Pruning earlier in the season is more satisfactory as there is sufficient time for cut stems to heal.

Watering Programs

The winter months are very cold and very little water is needed to irrigate gardens. The soil usually dries out over winter unless winter rain occurs. Irrigation systems and water supplies need to be checked and serviced and watering programs should begin.

In Central Australia, the weather warms quickly in the Spring months and if the soil is low in moisture, plant loss occurs in September and October.

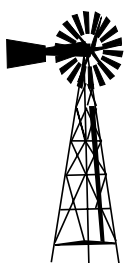
Seed Purchase

This is a good month to check out and purchase seed required for the Spring season. It's good to do this early in the month allowing time for seed to be delivered.

Seed can be purchased from local Supermarkets, Hardware Stores and Garden Centres. There are also national Seed Suppliers who operate good mail order services with the aid of their informative seed catalogues. For more information re-seed supply contact your local Horticultural Adviser or refer to the telephone directory. Visiting web sites is also a possibility.

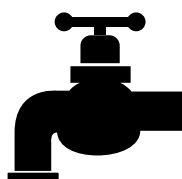
Preparation

Spring is very close, so take this opportunity to begin preparing for the growing season. Mulching, planting programs, windbreaks etc all need to be planned now.



It's Time to Check the
Water Supply for Your
Garden

It's Time to Check
Your Drip System
and Begin Watering
Your Garden



September

Weather Conditions

The winter has now passed and day temperatures can be expected to be in the high twenties and low thirties. There will be cooler days as well, however plants will begin adjusting quickly to higher day temperatures. Advantage should be taken of the cooler days when planting out vegetable seedlings, trees and shrubs.

Winds generally dominate from the south east and this month is usually regarded as the windy month of the year.

Vegetables

Don't hesitate to plant summer vegetable seed this month. The soil will be warming and good germination can be expected. Refer to the relevant fact sheets on vegetable varieties and seasons to plant.

Plant Diseases

Scale is a pest that attaches itself to the leaves and stems of plants and survives by sucking the sap from the plant. They breed in early Spring and are transparent in the young stage. September is a good month to spray fig trees and other plants affected by scale, with white oil. This oil smothers the young scale. It's wise to spray several times in September and October if a scale problem exists.



The Windy Season

September can be very windy and plants need the protection provided by Windbreaks. If the winds are combined with warm weather, plants, especially vegetables wilt and suffer damage.

It's also time to spray grape vines with a copper spray or a good fungicide to prevent the growth of black spot. This is a fungal disease which reduces the number of berries per bunch and hence overall crop yield.

Trees and Shrubs

It's time to begin planting seed of trees and shrubs in plant nurseries. The aim is to gain as much growth from seedlings before the onset of the following winter.

Continue with planting programs of trees and shrubs purchased from local nurseries.

Windbreaks

Plants need protection from wind especially vegetables. If windbreaks are required in gardens, they should be erected quickly before wind damage occurs. See relevant fact sheets.

Patch Burning

Great care needs to be taken if patch burning programs are still in progress. Good use should be made of the cooler days when medium strength winds prevail, however caution needs to be exercised.

Cuttings

If cuttings of grape vines, sweet potato etc. were buried in sand or wood shavings to preserve them over Winter, it's now time to dig them up. Do this early in the month so cuttings can adjust to conditions above ground. Windy conditions will damage buds so care should be taken.

Seed Collection

It's flowering time on the Lands. Check out trees and shrubs that are flowering like Acacias and Sennas. Seed from these plants should be ready to pick in October and November. Seed from these plants and others are essential for use in direct seeding programs around communities and homelands. The best seed to plant in degraded areas is that which is grown and collected locally. Begin to prepare equipment for collecting seed.

October

Weather Conditions

Although October is still officially Spring, day temperatures are in the low thirties, which is more like Summer. In fact heat wave conditions can occur during this month with temperatures in the high thirties. This is why gardens, trees and shrubs should be irrigated in August if winter rainfall has been low.

If large falls of rain occur this month, grasses will grow quickly and cause fire hazard conditions through the Christmas New year period.

Windy conditions can still prevail during October so precautions need to be taken to protect plants. See the relevant fact sheets.



Vegetables

Continue to plant vegetable seed including watermelon and rockmelon. Growth of vegetables will be rapid, provided sufficient water is available. When planting out seedlings, they should be planted at the end of the day and into a hole filled with water. This reduces the stress on the seedling. If conditions are very hot, some shade may be required over the seedling for a few days.



Tree and Shrub Planting Programs

The Spring season is coming to an end. All tree and shrub planting programs need to be completed by the end of November so plants are acclimatised before the Christmas-New Year break. Act now and complete programs.

Trees and Shrubs

Continue to plant seed of trees and shrubs in nurseries. Continue to plant trees and shrubs in communities and homelands. If the conditions are hot, plant trees at the end of the day so they have the cool of the evening to adjust to the new conditions. All plants should be planted into a hole filled with water. See relevant fact sheets.

Patch Burning

All large patch burning programs should be nearing completion because conditions are becoming too hot to burn effectively without destroying fire sensitive plants. It's still possible to burn grassed areas around communities on days when conditions are suitable.

Seed Collection

Sennas and Acacias are still flowering in some areas during October, however seed will be ready to collect from earlier flowering varieties. Flowering times and plant locations should be noted so seed can be checked as it matures. Once seed is collected, it needs to be laid out on a shed floor so the pods can be crushed by simply walking on them, allowing the seed to fall through the chaff. Once the chaff is raked away, the seed can be gathered from the floor and stored in appropriate containers. An insecticide powder should be added to the seed container to prevent borers and other insects damaging the seed.

Old man saltbush seed (*Atriplex nummularia*) usually matures this month.

November

Weather Conditions

The weather in November can be quite variable with temperatures being both high and low. If a heat wave has occurred in October (37°C plus), then much lower temperatures can be experienced in November (high twenties and low thirties). Cool changes can still be experienced from the south east with the mercury dropping to the low twenties. These cool periods are often only for a couple of days.

November can be a month of high thunderstorm activity. This activity can yield little or no rain depending on the season. If small amounts of rain occur, conditions can become quite humid as a result.

Plant Diseases

If humid conditions prevail, watch for Downy and Powdery Mildew appearing on grape vines. These are fungal diseases and are easily cured by spraying vines with a copper spray or an equivalent fungicide.

Vegetables

Continue to plant vegetable seeds including watermelon and rockmelon. Certain varieties of lettuce can be planted this month and will be mature in January. Lettuce planted at this time do not run to seed as they would if they were planted in August-September. Lettuce seed can be planted from now



Seed Collection

Don't miss out on collecting Acacia and Senna seed in your area to use for direct seeding around the Community or Homeland.

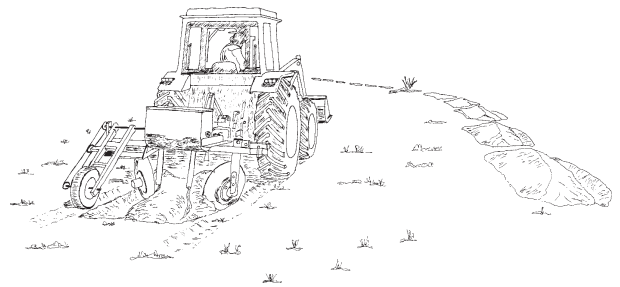
until early May depending on how early the winter sets in.

Seed Collection

Some Acacia and Senna seed ripen in late October, however the bulk of the seed ripens in November. When seed is ripe, it needs to be picked before it falls or the birds eat it.

Direct Seeding Programs

If direct seeding programs are being planned for next February-March, then final arrangements need to be made this month. Many people are on holidays during the Christmas-New year period, hence it's not a good time to organise community or homeland programs.



If equipment is being used, then it needs to be serviced and kept ready for use in February.

If seed quantities are low and more stocks are to be purchased, then they should be ordered without delay. Hopefully sufficient quantities of seed have been collected locally during the Spring months.

December

Weather Conditions

Temperatures in December are usually in the mid to high thirties and the weather can be quite pleasant. If there is thunderstorm activity with small falls of rain, then conditions can be quite humid and very similar to the build up before the wet in the top end.

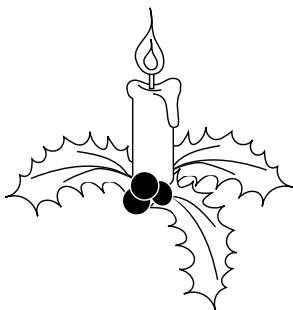
Some cool weather can be experienced this month but only for a few days depending on the weather patterns in the southern part of the continent.

Plant Diseases

If humid conditions prevail, watch for Downy and Powdery Mildew appearing on grape vines. These are fungal diseases and are easily cured by spraying vines with a copper spray or an equivalent fungicide.

Holidays

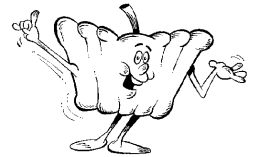
All schools on the lands close down this month and many people leave on holidays. They are away for at least six weeks, so arrangements should be made to provide minimal care for gardens and newly planted trees and shrubs. The heat can be very severe over the January period and plants will not survive without some attention.



*Greetings of the Season to Everybody
on the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara
and Ngaanyatjarra Lands.*

Vegetables

This is the last month to plant pumpkin, watermelon and rockmelon seeds. Plant before Christmas so crops ripen before the onset of winter.



Community Management

The three weeks before Christmas should be used to complete any outstanding programs so everybody can have a siesta in the New year. Fire breaks should be in working order and the people remaining in the community should know where they are in case they need to be used. Equipment like slashers etc. should be housed ready for use in case of emergency. Water tanks on houses should be checked and in working order in case of water supply problems over the holiday period.

If ceremonies have been planned for January-February, extra store supplies and fuel need to be organised.



Make plans before holidays begin