

Appendix 2. Wardaman Seasonal Calendar

Yijilg - wet season December to February

This is the wet season when rain falls daily, often in large amounts. Often travel is restricted due to flooding and the boggy nature of heavy soils on black soil plains.

Fruits available in this season include Bungen (*Ficus platypoda* and *F. leucotracha*), Buda (*Vitex glabrata*) and Julamarran (*Flueggea virosa*). In the past, Wolon (*Heteropogon contortus*) grass was used to make a covering for bush houses that were constructed in Yijilg to provide protection from rain.

Towards the end of Yijilg and into Wulujujun, when the Berndeny (*Heteropogon triticeus*) or "Bush sugar cane" is succulent and juicy, the stems are chewed and sucked to obtain the sweet liquid inside. The stems are broken into short lengths so that they may be carried easily.

Yidawurru (*Citrullus lanatus*) or watermelon are often found growing along roadsides during this season and are much sought after for their fruit.

The Bawujin (*Brachystelma glabriflorum*) or bush potato is best dug up in the Yijilg season when they are fat and juicy after the rains. The small disc shaped tubers or yams are dug up, washed and eaten. They are especially favoured by children. The dark flowers, Ngayal, hang downwards off the stem and point to areas where more yams may be found.

Wulujujun - end of the wet season February to March

This season sees the last of the rains and the end of the wet season.

Fruit available include Magorigori (*Ampelocissus acetosa* and *A. frutescens*), Yiwung (*Antidesma ghesaembilla*), Mlyarlunguj (*Antidesma parvifolia*), Julamarran (*Flueggea virosa*), Menyjeng (*Terminalia erythrocarpa*) and Mordon (*Vigna lanceolata*, *V. vexillata*). The yams of Magulu (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) and Megerrman/Gawkawili (*Dioscorea transversa*) and Gayalarrin (*Typhonium liliifolium*) are also available.

The Gayalarrin tuber is washed repeatedly, before being smashed on a stone and cooked on hot ashes. The process is then repeated again before eating. The leaves are only visible in the Wulujujun season but the tuber is available all year round. This plant can be found on black soil country or Bern-gjijin.

The ripe fruit of the Yiwung are dark blue to black and are a highly regarded food resource. They are produced at the end of this season. Various birds and fruit bats also eat the fruit. Harlequin bugs are often found on this species.

The fruit of the Magorigori are eaten when black and ripe. They are sweet to taste but leave a sour aftertaste. When the fruits are ripe, blue tongue lizards - Burarriman and Yarringa, are fat and ready to catch and eat.

Wujerrijin - dry season April to September

This is the dry season when the weather is cold and no rain falls. The skies are generally clear of clouds. Jegban (bush turkey), Gangman (kangaroo) and Walanja (goanna) will be properly fat and good to eat. Waterlily seed - Gardi (*Nymphaea macrosperma*, *N. violacea*) are now ready for collection to eat raw or make into damper.

Fruits available in this season include Lerrwewen (*Ficus opposita*), Merdengdeng (*Ficus scobina*), Jamagarra (*Nauclea orientalis*), Buda (*Vitex glabrata*), Manamurran (*Grewia retusifolia*), Mardulg (*Cucumis melo*, small leaf), Ngarlwog (*Cucumis melo*, large leaf), Mardarrgu (*Ziziphus quadrilocularis*) and Julamarran (*Briedelia tomentosa*). The seeds of Bardigi (*Terminalia arostrata*) and the tubers of Ginyuwurru (*Cyperus bulbosus*) are also