

The bark of **Elu** (Mal), **Kerewey** (Mat) *Buchanania obovata* is used in a preparation for the treatment of skin sores and fungal infections.

MalakMalak and Matngala plant knowledge

DALY RIVER, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

Arimada – Early rains begin. The north-west sea breeze, **Nol**, begins to blow.

Lemberrengety (Mal)
Ngarangga (Mat) *Flacourtia territorialis*. A favoured sweet fruit that is eaten when red-brown.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Wulngum (Mal) **Pindalany** (Mat)
Planchonia careya fruit ready for eating.

Palaty (Mal) **Kuri** (Mat)
Dioscorea bulbifera. This yam is ready to collect in the wet season. It takes lengthy preparation, soaking in running water and roasting, to make it safe to eat.

Menytyil (Mal),
Menyyer (Mat)
Barringtonia acutangula leaves and bark are used as a fish poison, **Taratywolul**, and also to heal skin sores.

Pundumirri – Late dry season when it is humid and hot.

Elu (Mal) **Kerewey** (Mat)
Buchanania obovata

Pulu (Mal) **Tyerrak** (Mat)
Brachystelma glabriflorum

Wom (Mal) **Bon** (Mat)
Vitex glabrata

Ariwarik – The monsoon time.

Mungam *Grewia retusifolia*. Fruit are eaten when they turn brown. The leaves and roots are boiled in water and used to treat diarrhoea.

Yilik (Mal) **Mirang** (Mat)
Nelumbo nucifera. The seeds are called **Numurru** (Mal) or **Miyangmiyang** (Mat) and can be stored for when food is scarce during the wet season.

Muram muram (Mal)
Tyangatya (Mat) *Pandanus spiralis*

Ali (Mal) **Warwi** (Mat)
Ficus racemosa

Munenput (Mal)
Matyamatya (Mat)
Flueggea virosa

FEBRUARY

Palaty (Mal) **Kuri** (Mat)
Dioscorea bulbifera. This yam is ready to dig up when the 'cheeky yam grasshopper' called **Palaty** (Mal) sings out to let you know.

Din'girri (Mal),
Bunggarra (Mat)
Syzygium eucalyptoides produces a sweet fruit, and flowers that attract bees and sugarbag (native bee-hives).

Yyety
Cochlospermum fraseri. The flowers signal that freshwater crocodile eggs are ready to be collected and eaten.

Aridangit – Early to mid dry season when it can get cold at night-time.

Muntyalk (Mal) **Keter** (Mat)
Nymphaea macrosperma

Bemburtyak
Syzygium suborbiculare

Mungam
Grewia retusifolia

Dirrikwak – Late wet season when the rains are stopping.



Wulngum (Mal)
Pindalany (Mat)
Planchonia careya. This plant is spiritually and culturally important to MalakMalak and Matngala people.

Mer (Mal) **Meriki** (Mat)
Brachychiton megaphyllus pods are burnt before the seeds inside are eaten.

Punggulerrp – The wind from the south east, **Dangit**, begins and the stems of the spear grass dry out and burning can begin.

Kaleykaley – The refreshing wind called **Kaleykaley** begins to blow.

Nimir (Mal)
Tyambor (Mat)
Dioscorea transversa. The 'long yam' is highly sought after, often found in jungle patches and dug up during **Kaleykaley**.

The leaves and pods of **Darik** *Acacia auriculiformis* may be rubbed in water to produce a soapy lather for washing. The lather can also be used as a fish poison to stun fish in small pools.

Muntyalk (Mal)
Keter (Mat) *Nymphaea macrosperma* has large seed heads that can be roasted or eaten raw. In the past the seeds were collected, dried and kept wrapped in Paperbark in preparation for the wet season when food was short.

The flesh of ripe **Pinyyakper** *Morinda citrifolia* can be chewed to treat colds and flu.