

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*
territoralis. A favoured sweet fruit
that is eaten when red-brown.

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.

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.

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

Wulingum (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.

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

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

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.

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**.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

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

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

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

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

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

Bemburtyak
Syzygium suborbiculare

Elu (Mal) **Kerewey** (Mat)
Terminalia ferdinandiana

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

Munenput (Mal)
Matyamaty (Mat)
Flueggea virosa

Mungam
Grewia retusifolia

Nging *Antidesma*
ghesaembilla

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

Ariwarik –
The monsoon time.

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.

Dirrikwak –
Late wet season when the
rains are stopping.

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

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

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.