

Noongar Seasons

The Noongar year is traditionally divided into six seasons relating to the prevailing weather conditions and the types of foods the Noongar people could expect to find. The Noongar seasons vary slightly from location to location, depending on the local environment and local dialect. The following is a general description:

Birak 

is the hot and dry time of December and January, with easterly winds during the day and south-west breezes in the late afternoon. Controlled fires were lit in the scrublands, forcing kangaroos and western brush wallabies out into the open so they could be more easily speared.

Bunuru 

is February March, with hot easterly and northerly winds. A lack of water drove people to the coast and towards the estuaries and fish became a major food source, with shallow or tidal areas used to trap shoals of fish.

Djeran 

is the cooler weather of April May, with the winds coming from the south-west. The fruits of the western Zamia were collected, along with a blood-red spicy sand-plain bulb that was ground and used to spice up a meal.

Makurua 

is the onset of winter, June and July, when the cold and wet weather comes with the westerly winds. Swans begin to moult and so are easier prey and witchetty grubs were abundant. Later in the season water supplies are more reliable and people disperse to their inland hunting areas.

Djilba 

is the late winter and early spring of August September, with some fine days. Throughout Makuru and Djilba tubers of native potato are dug from beneath the wandoo and Kangaroos, emus and possums hunted.

Kambarang 

is the decreasing rain and warming of October November. The last red beak orchids and native potatoes are dug from the ground, waterfowl birds' eggs, and parrots, cockatoos, hawks and pigeons plucked from their nests and the fresh water crayfish, frogs and tortoises are easily caught in the shallow pools of the swamps and wetlands.

** Source: Hunters and Gatherers by Peter Bindon and Trevor Walley. Publisher Department of Conservation and Land Management.*