



SHEFA Province, Vanuatu Traditional Knowledge Seasonal Calendar

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	Rain and Hot			Transition		Sun and Cold			Transition		Rain and Hot	
CLIMATE												
Hot season (Nov-April)												
Wet season (Nov-April)												
Tropical Cyclone season (Nov-April)												
Cold season (May-October)												
Dry season (May-October)												
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Sowing of vegetable seeds												
Harvest of namambe												
New Yam Festival ceremony												
Sowing of tomato and cabbage seeds												
Harvest of yams (April-July)												
Yams in growing stages (Oct-Jan)												
Chiefly ordinations use yams												
Best time to plant wailu yam												
Best harvesting of nawita octopus												
Harvest of sweet wovile (May-Sept)												
Brush and burn the new gardens												
Cleaning/burning of new gardens (June-Aug)												
Time to burn the roots of the big trees that are still in the gardens, the wood is the driest												
Prepare gardens for planting												
Plant the first yams in the garden these yams are for the new yam festival only												
Planting of yams (Aug-Sept)												
Harvest of wovile yams (Aug-Sept)												
Make fences around the gardens (so that pigs don't start to eat the yams)												
Best time for planting bananas												
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATORS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
The seas are very calm												
Lots of rain, but also sun												
It is very hot												
Yams are growing strong												
Fish poisoning on the reef is common, the corals are hot and unhealthy												
Seaweed grows all over the reef, soon a wave or storm will come to wash the												
It is raining but stops regularly												
Yams are mature, their ropes/vines are dry												
The weather is sunny and begins to be dry												
The mackerel/sardines are many along the shore												
The breadfruits begin to ripen												
Sweet wovile (wild yam) when it is dry, and windy, hill fires burn so the yam is ready to dig and eat												
Noise of dryness, walking through the bush leaves												
Soil is very dry												
Yam leaves are dry and fall off the plants												
The sea is very very dry (you can see the reef come out of the sea), this means yams are ready												
The flower of the napto falls, that indicates a dry sea, and that yams are read												
Flowering of narara (June-Aug)												
Yam gardens are old now												
During the dry season, when the nasiko bird cries several times in a row and touches the sea, that indicates that an octopus is on the reef in tha												
It is very cold during the night												
Wind is very strong; ruatu (se) winds												
Whales come to the bays												
When the full moon comes out, any droughts will be reversed												
It is time for sleeping, working is finished, the yam is resting												
Breadfruit produce rubber-like flowers												
Butterflies come out everywhere and many colors, this indicates the yams are growing (and the planted yam is now dead, new shoots growing												
Turtles are coming ashore to lay eggs (nesting season)												
The yams have started producing vines/ropes												
Palolo worms come out of the reefs												
"You sarem eye smol taem be i daylight" - day long night short												
There is brown foam floating on the surface of the sea (called the urine of the stonefish)												
The sea is not very clear (dirty)												
The sea is hot in some places and cold in others												
The nights are long "sarem eye longfala taem"												
Fish are making eggs (black piko) and they make schools of fish and travel togethe												
Yellow mangrove flowers												
Angawo "thinking of planning and doing something, but can't do it"												
Breadfruit harvest (Dec-Feb)												
The sea goes above the normal high tide												