

24 Solar Periods of the Chinese Calendar

Seasonal Qi		Date	Season	Ecliptic
Jue Yin	1	20 January	Great Cold	0° Aquarius
	2	5 February	Beginning of Spring	15° Aquarius
	3	20 February	Rainwater	0° Pisces
	4	7 March	Awakening of Insects	15° Pisces
Shao Yin	5	22 March	Spring Equinox	0° Aries
	6	6 April	Bright and Clear	15° Aries
	7	21 April	Grain Rain	0° Taurus
	8	6 May	Beginning of Summer	15° Taurus
Shao Yang	9	22 May	Ripening of Grains	0° Gemini
	10	7 June	Grain in Ear	15° Gemini
	11	22 June	Summer Solstice	0° Cancer
	12	8 July	Little Heat	15° Cancer
Tai Yin	13	24 July	Great Heat	0° Leo
	14	8 August	Beginning of Autumn	15° Leo
	15	24 August	Heat Ceasing	0° Virgo
	16	8 September	White Dew	15° Virgo
Yang Ming	17	24 September	Autumn Equinox	0° Libra
	18	9 October	Cold Dew	15° Libra
	19	24 October	Frost Descends	0° Scorpio
	20	8 November	Beginning of Winter	15° Scorpio
Tai Yang	21	23 November	Light Snow	0° Sagittarius
	22	7 December	Great Snow	15° Sagittarius
	23	22 December	Winter Solstice	0° Capricorn
	24	6 January	Little Cold	15° Capricorn

Notes :

- ❖ Beginning of the Calendar year in nature is 20/1 . It is a solar calendar, which would be the same as the traditional 'Agriculture or Farmer's Calendar'.

The cycles for both the *Movement of the 5 Seasons* and the *Qi* or *Quality of the 6 Seasons* begin then.

This is different from the *Solar-Lunar Calendar* of the *Stems and Branches Astrology*, which will begin on a date according to the New Moon; which is why it is on a different date according to the Gregorian Calendar we use in Western society.

So, as you understood there are actually 3 Calendars: Solar or Agricultural; Solar-Lunar or Astrological; and Social or one constructed for living in society.

- ❖ The dates of commencement of the 5 Seasonal Movements are these:

20/1	Spring	expression of	Wood
3/4	Summer	" "	Fire
15/6	Late Summer	" "	Earth
27/8	Autumn	" "	Metal
8/11	Winter	" "	Water

If there is to be disturbance of the *Movements of the Seasonal Qi* during the year, it will be around this date; if there is much climatic tension there will be storms.

This will be dependent upon the relationship of the *Guest Movement* to the *Host Movement*; which is the same throughout the whole year.

- ❖ The dates of commencement of the 6 Seasonal Qi are shown above as the beginning of each period; and here with their specific climatic qualities:

20/1	<i>Jue Yin</i>	as Wood	= Wind	as the climate
21/3	<i>Shao Yin</i>	as Major Fire	= Fire	" " "
21/5	<i>Shao Yang</i>	as Minor Fire	= Heat	" " "
23/7	<i>Tai Yin</i>	as Earth	= Damp or Wet	" " "
23/9	<i>Yang Ming</i>	as Metal	= Dryness or Cool	" " "
22/11	<i>Tai Yang</i>	as Water	= Cold	" " "

The periodic changes in Climate (quality, not flow of seasons) are dependent upon the relationship of the *Guest Qi* to the *Host Qi*. This will be different for each period, as the sequence of the *Seasonal Qi* are different in the two cycles.

The *Guest Qi* enters 15 days later, at the beginning of the next Solar Period, so the initial changes in the *Seasonal Qi* will be noted around the *Host* date (as above) and the influence upon this by the *Guest Qi* about 15 days later.

- ❖ In your own observations, note the subtle changes in nature every 15 days; appreciating that this could be 1 or 2 days before or after this, allowing for different time periods in the world.

Also, please interpret and seek the meaning of the Seasonal change within the context of the temporal zone and usual climate. In a naturally warm climate, on 23/11 Light Snow, one is looking for more precipitation in the air, combining with the coolness which is already present.

Particularly note that observing the change in climate for the Western '4 Seasons', one looks at the beginning of the period – not in the middle, which is probably one's habit.