

the Origin

Twenty-four Solar Terms refers to the season and climate ,which is a calendar that made to guid chinese ancient agriculture .As the east Asian traditional lunar calendar is a "lunisolar calendar" , that is , it's developed according to the runing and operation of sun or moon ,so it can not fully reflect the circle of sun , but china is an agricultural society and we hv to strictly know the circumstance about the sun operation , farming is completely carriedout according to the sun ,so our ancient ancestors added a separate calendar to reflect the sun cycle "Twenty-four Solar Terms" ,which is used for the criteria of determining the intercalary . In other words ,24 solar terms r purely solar calendar , and it was not developed according to the lunar calendar . Chinese folk practice lunisolar ,adding 24 solar terms , so it's very compicated . If we look at the solar calendar with 24 solar terms and leave alone the lunisolar ,it's very clear and simple .



二十四节气歌

春雨惊春清谷天， 夏满芒夏暑相连，
秋处露秋寒霜降， 冬雪雪冬小大寒。
上半年是六廿一， 下半年来八廿三，
每月两节日期定， 最多不差一两天。

(立) 春	雨 (水)	惊 (蛰)	春 (分)	清 (明)	谷
(雨) 天，					
(立) 夏	(小) 满	芒 (种)	夏 (至)	(小) 暑	(大)
暑相连，					
(立) 秋	处 (署)	(白) 露	秋 (分)	寒 (露)	
霜降，					
(立) 冬	(小) 雪	(大) 雪	冬 (至)	小 (寒)	
大寒。					

The Beginning of Spring is the first of twenty-four solar terms . it usually falls on February 3-5 every year , and means spring is coming up , from this point on , the days get longer and the weather gets warmer. In addition , from winter to summer, we usually call this period the spring. besides , it's also an important traditional festival in china --- the first day of the beginning of the new year . so the beginning of spring is also known as playing chun, there exists the popular custom of weaving Spring Cattle and eating spring rolls and cakes on that day . it has another saying of biting



the Beginning of Spring

Feb . 3 , 4 or 5



Rainwater

Feb 18 , 19 or 20

Rainwater ranks the second of twenty-four solar terms ,and it usually comes between Feb 18 , 19 or 20 , from now on , the rainfall is increasing more and more , and ice and snow become to melt ,beside the temperature is also rising up at this point .In ancient and old times , chinese folk have the traditional custom that married daughter should go home to visit her parents and give her mother some red silk and stew pot meat .

雨水

好雨知时节，
润物细无声。



The waking of Insects is the third one of twenty-four solar terms , this solar term arises on Mar . 5 , 6 or 7 , there is an old saying about it goes like this :God makes crash of thunder to wake and arouse the animals that hide and solitude in the soil and earth on that day .so its meaning suggests that the insects that hiding in the soil are scared to run away bcoz of thunder .at this point the weather grows warmer and warmer , and also spring thunders come to emerge ,from this day on , most areas in china will turn into spring season .

the Waking of Insects

惊蛰

微雨众卉新
一雷惊蛰始





the Spring Equinox

Mar . 20 ,21 or22

the Spring Equinox ranks the fourth of the twenty-four solar terms ,it usually begins on Mar . 20 ,21 or 22 every year , and the length of day and night is almost equal on that day ,people will do the egg test and taste some spring vegetables ,from that day on ,as for climate, there are more obvious features, most regions and areas except Tibet Plateau, northeast, northwest and northern regions of North China have entered the beautiful spring, in the vast land, willow is growing green, birds are flying , grass is growing fast , wheat is jointing and rape potpourri .besides ,drought, dust, late spring, cold rain happen a lot ,timely irrigation and sowing of crops .

春分

青梅如豆柳如眉，
日长蝴蝶飞。



Pure Brightness

Apr . 4 ,5 or 6



Pure Brightness is an important traditional festival in china ,people can take part in some activities, for example, go outing ,sweep the graves , do some worships, go swing and fly kites on that day . peasants and farmer will be busy their work .



Grain Rain

Apr . 19 , 20 , or 21

Grain Rain ranks the 6th of all solar terms , it take places on Apr . 19 , 20 , or 21,during this period , the rainfall is increasing more and the cereal crops grow fast .

谷雨

家燕归来湍头水，
苗圃枝接耕果园



the Beginning of Summer

May . 5 , 6 or 7

the Beginning of Summer is the 7th solar term ,it Marks the arrival of summer , from the day on ,the weater will be hoter and hoter . the rainfall is sharply increasing .



孟夏之日，
天地始交，
万物并秀。





Lesser Fullness of Grain usually comes during May . 20 , 21 or 22 , it ranks the 8th of all solar terms , at this time ,all summer crops in the north of China will gradually come out plump grain, rice began to grow ear, we can see full fruitage on rice ,while in the south farmers will enter the season of harvest and sowing .

小满

四月中，小满者，
物致于此小得盈满。

Lesser Fullness of Grain

May . 20 , 21 or 22





Grain in Beard

Jun . 5 , 6 or 7



东风染尽三千顷
折鹭飞来无处停

during this period ,the wheat has been ripe , peasants should bring in the wheat as soon as possible ,after finishing the harvest of wheat ,they have to sow the rice . Yangtze River region in China will enter the rainy season .



the Summer Solstice

Jun . 21 or 22

the Summer Solstice Festival is also an important festival in the ancient society of China, it has the similar meaning to Dragon Boat Festival. Since ancient times, there is an important custom of eating noodles in many places on that day because the new wheat has been on stage during the summer Solstice. Besides, the temperature is increasing sharply in a short time.



鹿角解，蟬始鳴，
半夏生，木槿榮。





Lesser Heat

Jul . 6 , 7 or 8

小暑

溽夜重燕斗指辛
流萤摇曳戏茹蕖

a little hot, but not very hot. it means the beginning of the hot weather, but not the hottest, The rainy season will come to an end in Huaihe River Valley , Midsummer is coming up ,the temperature will rise, and it will enter the drought period; while in the north and northeast regions the rainy season will come up, tropical cyclone activity frequently happens , tropical cyclones in China begin to increase. the south should note the drought,the north should notethe flood ,The crops have entered the stage to thrive,farmers need to strengthen field management.





Greater Heat

Jul . 22 , 23 or 24

Greater Heat Is the hottest period of the year, the temperature is the highest, the crops grow the fastest, the drought, floods, storms frequently happen, the peasants are busy with the harvest of crops.

绿杉蓊蓊荫酷暑，
翠叶荣荣滤燠风。
若得三伏闲情在，
便有清凉藏心中。

大暑





the Beginning of Autumn

Aug . 7 , 8 or 9

it suggests hot summer will soon be over and means the autumn will come soon ,so the weather will become cool and the leaves will become yellow and then fall .

立秋

立秋三场雨，
夏布衣裳高搁起。





the End of Heat

Aug . 22 , 23 or 24

it suggests that Summer heat formally terminates and the temperature gradually goes down .



Weather is becoming cooler, you will find there are many dews on the ground and leaves in the early morning and In the evening you will feel kind of cool.

White Dew

Sep .7 , 8 or 9



白露

蒹葭苍苍，
白露为霜。



it suggests that the autumn has passed away one half , and the day and night have the same length on that day ,after the Autumn Equinox , the day will get shorter and the night will get longer , and also the weather will gradually decrease day after day .



the Autumn Equinox

Sep . 22 , 23 or 24



秋分

风和日丽，
蟹肥菊黄。





Cold Dew

Oct . 8 or 9

it comes after the Autumn Equinox . the temperature is much lower than that of the Autumn Equinox , the original white and glistening dew on the ground is about to condense into frost, the chill will be more serious day after day .

寒
露
鴻雁來賓，
菊有黃華。





Frost's Descent

Oct . 23 or 24

霜降
千树扫作一番黄，
只有芙蓉独自芳。

it suggests that the weather is getting cold and frost will come into being , it's the last solar term of the fall , not cold-resistant plants will stop growing, so it shows an autumn scene, besides it's a good time to enjoy the maple leaves .



the Beginning of Winter

Nov . 7 or 8

it tells us the winter will come up soon, peasants and farmers should cover up the crops and grains after the harvest, the cold and substantial low temperature may happen. Before and after the beginning of winter, precipitation in most parts of China are significantly reduced. in Northeast China the earth is frozen, forestry crops enter into winter. in Jianghuai regions, "Sanqiu" is over soon, you need to plant late crop like winter wheat, and quickly transplant rape, while in South China it's the best time to seed wheat. In addition, after the beginning of winter the air is generally becoming dry, soil water content is less, China begin to focus on the forest fire work at this time.

立冬
暢飲麒麟閣，
報喜獻三瑞。



Lesser Snow

Nov . 22 or 23

the temperature will fall more than before, in North China the temperature will gradually drop below 0 °C, and then begin to snow, a little cold in the daytime . the snowfall will become from small to large .



小雪
小雪气寒
而将雪矣
地寒未甚
而雪未大也





it comes after Lesser Snow ,The weather in the northern regions will be affected by cold air,so the snow often appears larger, causing snow-accumulation on the ground.u will feel a little cold .



Greater Snow

Dec . 6 , 7 or 8

漫踪江野，
蝶舞飞扬一片白



the Beginning of Winter

Dec . 22 , 23 or 24

This solar term is relatively a significant traditional festive in china , it marks the informly coming of winter , the weather will continue to decrease in a short time , in North China ,people usually eating dumplings on that day .

冬至
十一月
冬至到，
家家户户吃水饺





Lesser Cold

Jan . 5 , 6 or 7



雪霁天晴朗，
腊梅处处香

It comes after the Beginning of Winter ,it marks the beginning of the coldest days of the year. According to China's meteorological data, at the point of Osamu the temperature is the lowest of the year , only the temperature of Big Chill of sm years is below Osamu .





Greater Cold

Jan . 20 or 2

This solar term ranks the last of all ,and it's also the last one solar term in winter ,at this time most parts of China r spendin the coldest period of the year.

