

# Matariki



## Planting crops

**Matariki atua ka eke mai i te rangi e roa,  
E whāngainga iho ki te mata o te tau e roa e.  
Divine Matariki come forth from the far-off heaven,  
Bestow the first fruits of the year upon us.**

The coming season's crops were planted according to the Matariki star cluster. If the stars were clear and bright, it was a sign that a favourable and productive season lay ahead, and planting would begin in September. If the stars appeared hazy and closely bunched together, a cold winter was in store and planting was put off until October.