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Pr -publication, Document de travail ⓘ

# Varro's Roman Seasons

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**Abstract** : The four seasons of the Roman calendar, as described by Marcus Terentius Varro, are different from our seasons, in the sense that they start on days which differ from those that we are using today. In his Books on Agriculture, Varro shows that the Roman seasons started on the Cross Quarter-days instead than on the Quarter-days of the year as it happens today. Besides the classic subdivision in four parts, in the Books on Agriculture we can also find the year divided into eight parts, that is eight seasons having quite different lengths. In our discussion of Varro's seasons we will compare the days he mentions for the separation of seasons to the Cross Quarter-and Quarter-days that we find in Celtic calendars.

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## INFORMATIONS



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W...ngle argument to corroborate this constitutional absurdity, which is just an all too transparent attempt to invent historical precedents for the annual di... In fact, there are indications that falsify Varro's idea. Unfortunately, Varro's list contains a second error. Not content with the introduction of four extra years, he added four years of anarchy. In other words, he solved the same problem twice, and the result is that all his dates before 300 BCE are wrong. Part of a complete English translation of Varro's De Re Rustica. Site contains many Greek and Latin texts, translations and related material. Book I. p161 1 1 Had I possessed the leisure, Fundania, I should write in a more serviceable form what now I must set forth as I can, reflecting that I must hasten; for if man is a bubble, as the proverb has it, all the more so is an old man. In many of these fields Varro redefined the terms of study for the Roman world (and beyond); in some he founded a scholarly discipline and tradition without any precedent. Yet the greatest scholar of Rome has rarely enjoyed the attention he deserves from the modern world: although the fragmentary state of much of his corpus presents serious obstacles to enquiry, the extant material provides a rich and unparalleled insight into Roman scholarship of the first century BC. Varro's Roman Seasons. The four seasons of the Roman calendar, as described by Marcus Terentius Varro, are different from our seasons, in the sense that they start on days which differ from those that we are using today. In his Books on Agriculture, Varro shows more. The four seasons of the Roman calendar, as described by Marcus Terentius Varro, are different from our seasons, in the sense that they start on days which differ from those that we are using today.