1977 Lettuce by Colin Bishop

This year, Mr Bishop sowed every two days or so, but without using any calendar. A keen amateur astrologer, he was perplexed by the way his 1976 trial had seemed to support the sidereal zodiac, rather than the 'tropical' one astrologers use. So this year his sowings did not assume any boundary-divisions.

Due to cold weather, germination of his rows of lettuce seeds did not begin until the latter half of April. Twenty-six rows were sown, between April 25th and June 15th, most of which grew. Each was thinned-out in a similar manner, grew for the same length of time (three months), and was not watered. Yields were scored as total weight of the lettuce tops after removal of roots, per row, divided by the number of lettuce grown per row.

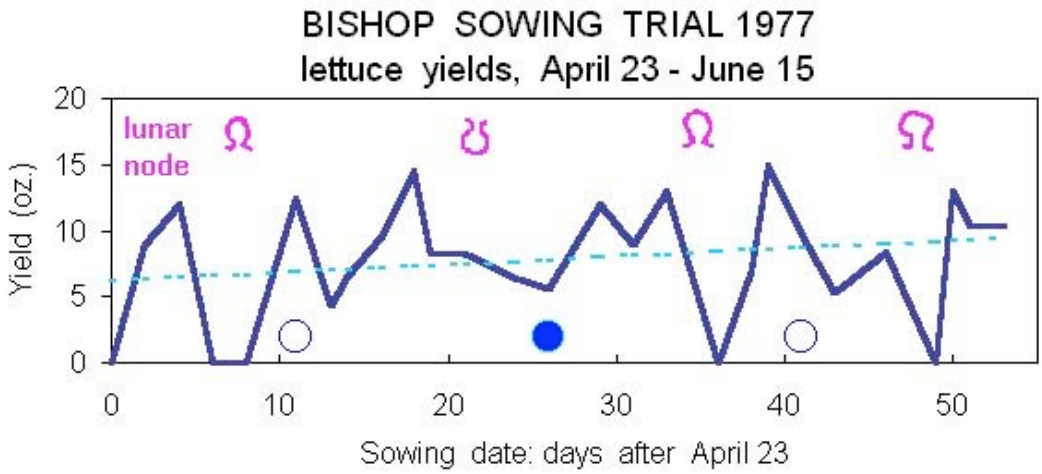

Figure 1

Plotting the results (Figure I) showed an inhibition of growth over the Moon-node days: these are always given as 'no-planting' days in BioDynamic calendars, i.e days to stay out of the garden. The figure shows that, out of the five sowings made near the lunar nodes four wholly failed to germinate. In a sowing trial experiment, having rows that do not germinate is a major disadvantage – it makes any statistics quite difficult. But, suppose we allow these zero values: putting a trend-line through the data as shown and subtracting it out gives the data in a zero-sum form that we can use.

Was there a yield excess for the 'leaf-day' sowings? Did the rows sown while the moon was traversing the Fishes-Scorpion-Crab *trigon* , i.e the Water-element, perform any better than the others? Using the BioDynamic boundaries (unequal constellations) gave virtually no difference in mean yields between those from the six leaf-day sowings and the rest.

Let's plot the 'transformed' data, (i.e. after subtracting out the trend line) as shown in Figure 2. The data is divided into a 120° four-element span. We notice that the best-fit waveform does show a gentle peaking in the Water-element and a minimum in the opposite element that of Earth. The amplitude of that sinewave is 30% of the mean. We might want to express this as: if this data-set is typical, then a farmer sowing lettuce on the Water ('leaf')-element days would get around 60% more yield than one sowing on Earth-element days.

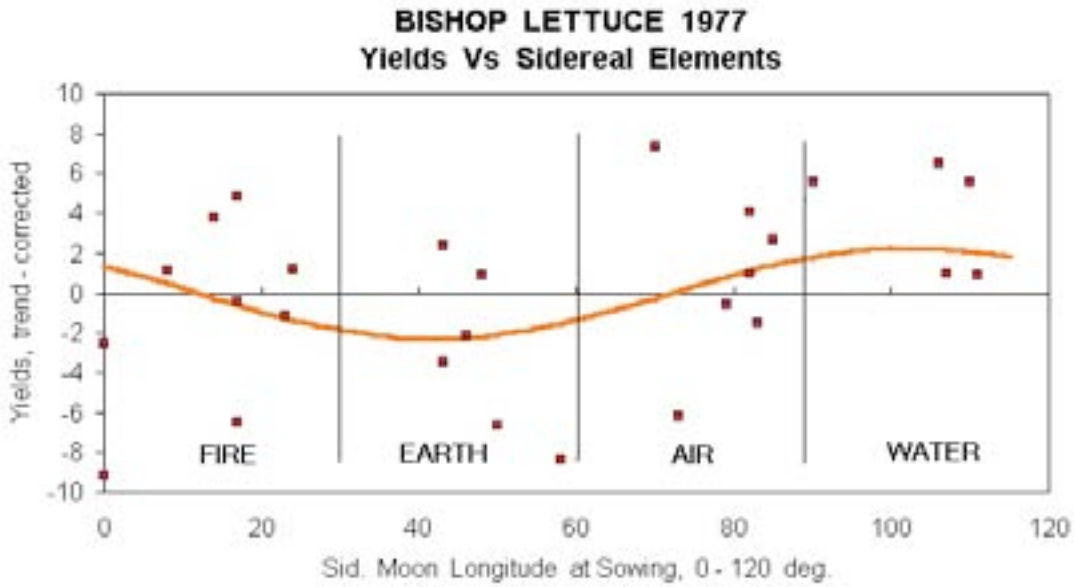

Figure 2

By an unlucky chance, of 26 rows sown, only four fell properly inside the Sidereal Water Moon-signs, with several right on the boundaries of the Water Moon-signs, as shown in Figure 2. For this reason, let us not try to group the 'leaf-day' sowings and compare then with the rest (There is a slight leeway of a degree or so as to where the Sidereal zodiac of antiquity is properly located: broadly speaking, the star Spica should be the boundary between Virgo and Libra). Or, we could just take the four data-points which (see Fig 2) clearly fell in the Water-trigon, and compare them with the six in Earth: there is a more than 100% difference between these means, using the 'raw' data: the leaf-day sowings gave more than double the weight yields as compared with the root-day sowings. This tends to confirm the general impression that a wave-form is working, whereby the nine-day celestial pattern gives a minimum in the 'root-days' (Earth) that is just as significant as the peak in 'leaf-days' (Water).

Earlier published by the author in as *Zodiac Rhythms* in Mercury Star Journal spring 1978.