poets, who sang of the constellations, the signs of the revolving year, and the works of the farmer and the sailor. A notable poet of this genre was Aratus of Soli in Cilicia, who around 275 B.C. wrote *Phenomena*, a poem of some 1150 lines. In the *Phenomena*, Aratus treated the constellations and their risings and settings and provided a list of natural signs that might be used in making weather predictions. The poem was extraordinarily popular and was translated into Latin at least three times.

Latin poets composed original works in the same tradition. Notable among these are Ovid (*Fasti*) and Virgil (*Georgics*). When astronomy and agriculture ceased to attract the interest of the poets, the tradition was continued in modified form by prose writers on agriculture. A good example is Columella (ca. A.D. 50), whose treatise on farming was the most comprehensive of all Roman works on this subject. Columella included in the eleventh book of his treatise a farmer’s calendar, which gave for each month of the year the