



August Newsletter

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Important August Dates

(All times are CDT)

August 1 - Lammas/Lughnadadh (Crossquarter August 7)

Lughnasadh

Animals/Mythical Creatures - griffins, basilisks, roosters, calves, centaurs, phoenix
Gemstones - aventurine, citrine, peridot, sardonyx, yellow diamonds and citrine
Incense/Oil - wood aloes, rose, rose hips, rosemary, chamomile, eucalyptus, safflower, corn, passionflower, frankincense, sandalwood
Colors/Candles - red, orange, golden yellow, green, light brown, gold, bronze, gray
Tools/Symbols/Decorations - corn, cornucopias, red, yellow flowers, sheaves of grain (wheat, barley, oats), first fruits/vegetables of garden labor, corn dollies, baskets of bread, spear, cauldron, sickle, scythe, threshing tools, sacred loaf of bread, harvested herbs, bonfires, bilberries, God figures made of bread or cookie dough, phallic symbols
Goddesses - the Mother, Dana (Lugh's wife & queen), Tailtiu (Welsh-Scottish), Demeter (Greek), Ceres (Roman grain goddess honored at Ceresalia), the Barley Mother, Seelu (Cherokee), Corn Mother, Isis (Her birthday is celebrated about this time), Luna (Roman Moon Goddess), other agricultural Goddesses, the waxing Goddess
Gods - Lugh (Celtic, one of the Tuatha De Danaan), John Barleycorn, Arianrhod's golden haired son Lleu (Welsh God of the Sun & Corn where corn includes all grains, not just maize), Dagon (Phoenician Grain God), Tammuz/ Dummuzi (Sumerian), Dionysus, plus all sacrificial Gods who willingly shed blood/give their life that their people/lands may prosper, all vegetation Gods & Tanus (Gaulish Thunder God), Taranis, (Romano-Celtic Thunder God), Tina, (Etruscan-Thunder God), the waning God

Essence - fruitfulness, reaping, prosperity, reverence, purification, transformation, change, The Bread of Life, The Chalice of Plenty, The Ever-flowing Cup, the Groaning Board (Table of Plenty)

Dynamics/Meaning - Lugh's wedding to Mother Earth, Birth of Lugh; Death of Lugh, Celtic Grain Festival

Purpose - honoring the parent deities, first harvest festival, first fruits grains & drink to the Goddess in appreciation of Her bounty, offering loaves of sacred bread in the form of the God (this is where the Gingerbread Man originated!)

Rituals/Magick - astrology, prosperity, generosity, continued success, good fortune, abundance, magickal picnic, meditate & visualize yourself completing a project you've started

Customs - games, the traditional riding of poles/staves, country fairs, breaking bread with friends, making corn dollys, harvesting herbs for charms/rituals, Lughnasadh fire with sacred wood & dried herbs, feasting, competitions, Lammas towers (fire-building team competitions), spear tossing, gathering flowers for crowns, fencing/swordplay, games of skill, martial sports, chariot races, handfastings, trial marriages, dancing 'round a corn mother (doll)

Foods - loaves of homemade wheat, oat, & corn bread, barley cakes, corn, potatoes, summer squash, nuts, acorns, wild berries (any type), apples, rice, pears, berry pies, elderberry wine, crab apples, mead, crab, blackberries, meadowsweet tea, grapes, cider, beer

Herbs - grain, acacia, heather, ginseng, sloe, cornstalks, cyclamen, fenugreek, aloes, frankincense, sunflower, hollyhock, oak leaf, wheat, myrtle

Element/Gender - fire/female

Threshold - noon

To learn more about this and other Sabbats, get our Sabbats eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=129

August 2, 10:50 pm to August 26, 5:03 pm - Mercury Retrograde

Mercury will make its retrograde station on August 2nd at 1 degree of Virgo. What this means for us mundane characters trying to get along in our lives as best we can is that this retrograde period is a time to sort through old, worn out perspectives; a time to clear the clutter of ideologies and thought patterns that are entrenched but not useful any more. Retrograde Mercury suggests a time to contemplate this; not to take radical action. Consider the conversation of your life. Is it interesting? Do your friends and associates get what you get or is there a gap? Is the gap only a mental gap? If so maybe the heart connection makes it worthwhile.

The actual station on August 2nd is loosely opposite Neptune, which will be leaving Pisces and returning to Aquarius for one last fling on August 4th. Neptune will not return to Pisces again until February 4th. The interesting thing about this is that the actual opposition is not exact until August 8th and will be in 29 degrees of Leo; bringing out the 29 degree theme once again. (The theme of the end of the end but not quite the

beginning of the beginning. Chaos, change and revolution. This theme has been strong at least since at the eclipse on the Winter solstice.)

These factors suggest that our retrograde experience might have something to do with the need for radical change in the ways we think as well as the things we think about. The last degree of Aquarius is a difficult transition because Aquarius is a sign, more than any other, which likes to hold onto its way of thinking. Whereas. Pisces is about letting things be just as they are. You can see that Aquarius needs Pisces because it can be too attached to ideas and ideals and Pisces follows Aquarius because a well cultivated mind prepares us to let go with awareness rather than ignorance.

The conjunction of Mercury to the Sun which is the heart of the retrograde will also include Venus and it is exact on the 16th of August at 23 degrees of Leo. The days leading up to and just after this date are good for the deepest contemplation of your attachments. A time to look at attachments of the heart vs. attachments of the mind. Do you think you love this person or do you really love them? What is love anyway? (Good question. No problem if you can't answer it. It's more of a problem if you think you can!)

All in all, this Mercury retrograde is about Virgo and Pisces as well as Leo and Aquarius: Our sense of compassion and service as well as our social reality. Becoming more aware of your social reality will help you become more compassionate and caring, which will be needed when Neptune moves into Pisces next February.

August 13, 1:58 pm - Full Moon

Moon of the Silver Web

Strengthen connections and promote good fortune for the group under this Aquarian Full Moon. Shared beliefs and rituals are the basis for these invisible strands. Over time, a silver web or "Psychic Coven Network" forms. Connected people don't need special ring-tones; they know who is calling because it's who they were just thinking about.

Improve the power of the web by remotely focusing on one another at a prearranged time. Light a candle and think about coven members. Send silver threads of mental light from your location to the others' homes. (Solitary practitioners may sit quietly with a burning candle and imagine silver threads connecting them to family and friends.) Good coven luck can be created with lottery tickets. Take a quick coven road trip to the local scary-out and buy tickets as a group.

Make a web with a ball of silver string at a coven ritual. Pass the string around so that members are connected by an unbroken strand, and knot the ends to bind the power. Charge the strand to remain active after the ritual. This also develops the potential to share dreams and prophetic hunches.

~ Elizabeth Hazel in [Llewellyn's 2011 Witches' Datebook](#)

August 28, 10:04 pm - New Moon

Within a few days after Mercury Retrograde goes direct, and as we look forward to the fall season that is almost upon us, the New Moon in Virgo is telling us to seize the moment, and to file it away for further use. With the new moon making a grand trine to Pluto and Jupiter conjunct Venus, this is a moment in time we need to work with, experience and understand the energy the Universe is blessing us with at this time. Are we working with it or for it, or is this energy for our disposal to help us achieve what we desire? We must remember a grand trine may bestow blessings upon us and make things easier for us to achieve whatever we put our mind to, but it is also letting us know we need to put effort into it, if we wish to achieve our hearts desire. How we see this new beginning is how we will create and reinvent, and how we analytically work with it and store its knowledge for use, which will be the key to future events. Knowledge is power, but with wisdom we have the ability to use it correctly to bring a successful completion to any idea or project. Virgo is highlighting the need to analyze, and organize our thoughts and ideas for the moment and for future reference, and to realize that by serving others, we learn to appreciate the blessings the Universe has and will bestow on us.

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Witch SuperCenter August Sale Items

Cedar Smudge Stick, 7" - Regular Price \$7.99, Sale Price \$6.99
Magickal Herbs Kit, Sabbat Blends - Regular Price - \$11.99, Sale Price - \$9.99
Deluxe Wicca Starter Kit w/Money Spell - Regular Price - \$78.99, Sale Price - \$74.99
Healing with Herbs eBook - Regular Price - \$4.99, Sale Price - \$3.99
Lemon Chamomile Herbal Tea - Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price - \$4.99

To see all of our sale items, visit

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=specials

Herb of the Month

Sandalwood - Air/Moon, Gender - Feminine, Parts Used - Wood, Resin, Magickal Properties - Protection, Cleansing, Meditations and Healings, Uses - Burn to enhance your meditations and healing wishes, use the wood also for a healing wand or tie a piece on a healing wand, burn to cleanse and purify yourself or the home by passing the smoke over your body or through the house, used with other herbs in developing your spirituality.

To learn more about this and other herbs, get our Magickal Herbs eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=120

Stone of the Month

Tiger's Eye - Ruled by the Sun and possessing a golden flash of light, tiger's-eye is worn to strengthen convictions and create courage and confidence. This is a warm stone, and it promotes energy flow through the body when worn. It is also beneficial for the weak or sick. Tiger's Eye enhances personal power. When this stone is placed upon the body it gives a feeling of strength to the person and the belief that they can undertake the necessary searching and make the necessary changes to enable the healing to take place. This is important because the person needs to feel that the healing is taking place because of his or her own efforts and not because you are doing something to them. Tiger's Eye carries the energy of emotional balance and removes fears. It is therefore useful for people who may have doubts about the healing process and a lack of belief that healing will take place. Sometimes the lack of belief may manifest in stubbornness and the Tiger's Eye will soften this feeling and allow the belief to come through. Tiger's Eye is a very highly spiritually evolved stone and builds a firm foundation for spiritual expansion. Because all metaphysical healing is rooted in spiritual practice, it is the ideal third chakra stone. Its added benefits are its grounding qualities and its ability to assist the person in centering themselves and focusing on the task ahead. Tiger's Eye benefits the spleen, pancreas, digestive organs and colon.

Rune of the Month

Mehwaz (E: Horse, two horses.) – Transportation. May represent a horse, car, plane, boat or other vehicle. Movement and change for the better. Gradual development and steady progress are indicated. Harmony, teamwork, trust, loyalty. An ideal marriage or partnership. Confirmation beyond doubt the meanings of the runes around it. Ehwaz Reversed or Merkstave: This is not really a negative rune. A change is perhaps craved. Feeling restless or confined in a situation. Reckless haste, disharmony, mistrust, betrayal.

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=124

Tarot Card of the Month

6 of Wands - The 6 of Wands is a very positive omen. It can indicate that despite the challenges you are facing, you will overcome them and come out on top. This card also points toward literal or metaphorical movement; things are changing, in a positive way.

General: In general, the 6 is about happiness and celebration. You are about to see some results for your hard work and efforts. Give yourself a break or treat yourself in some way. You have certainly earned it.

Work: If you're looking for a position, this card is a very positive portent. You will find something that is better than you dared hope. If you're currently in a position that you

want to stay in - things are about to get even better at work for you than you would have hoped. Your efforts are valued. Just keep doing what you are doing.

Love: In a committed relationship, this card means that things are looking up. Suddenly, you are likely to find yourself feeling closer and happier with your partner than ever before. If you're unattached, take heart - the appearance of this card can mean you're about to enter a relationship with someone you've been dreaming about. This is a very positive omen.

Finances: Things will be going much better for you financially soon. Regardless of what is happening all around you, things are going to be on the upswing for you financially. Be prudent, however, in what you do with any increase. Particularly these days, it's important for everyone to be prepared for a rainy day. Still - expect increase.

Health: If you're worried about health, relax. Things are not as bad for you or the person that you're asking about as you fear. There is an underlying, spiritual strength that will sustain the health of the person you're asking about. Take heart.

Spirituality: In the context of spirituality, the 6 of Wands can indicate getting in touch with deep joy and love of living. You are already on the right track. Get in touch with the joy inside you, and then share it. The world needs the gifts that only you can offer.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=107

Correspondence of the Month

Trees

Alder (Alnus spp.) – This tree is a water lover. The oily water resistant wood has been used extensively for underwater foundations and pilings in Venice and elsewhere. It is used in dairy vessels and the branches in making whistles. It is associated with Bran, as He used His body as a bridge to span dangerous waters. It is used in the construction of bridges. Bran's Head was oracular. Alder indicates protection and oracular powers.

Apple (Malus spp.) – A dense, fine-grained, rosy-colored wood with a slightly sweet smell. The Apple is the earliest cultivated tree. It is associated with choice. At Somerset, an auction was held for single acre plots on two pieces of common land. Plots were marked and matching marks made on the fruit. The apples were then placed in a bag and commoners were allocated land by the distribution of the fruit. All the acres of land were similar, as many times today choices must be made between similar and equally attractive things. Regardless, the choice must be made. In Norse myth, Idunna was the keeper of the 'apples of immortality' which kept the Gods young. The 'fruit-bearing tree' referred to by Tacitus in his description of Norse runic divination may have been the apple. Apple indicates choice, and is useful for love and healing magic.

Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) – A strong, straight-grained wood; sometimes has 'olive' streaks or stripes in the grain. The European variety (*Fraxinus excelsior*) was referred to in the Eddas as the species of Yggdrasil - the 'World-Tree'. The first man, named Ask, was created from an ash log. Ash was commonly used to make spears because of its 'springiness' and straight grain. In North America, strips of black ash were split along the grain to make splints for baskets and hoops. It is used in weaver's beams. Women would weave cloth and intermingling threads together in a tight pattern as the microcosm and the macrocosm are united. Ash can be used in spells requiring focus and strength of purpose, and indicates the linking of the inner and outer worlds.

Beech (*Fagus* spp.) – Beech wood is closely grained, very easy to work giving a smooth even surface. At one time Beech tablets were used as writing surfaces because of the above mentioned qualities. Beech and book have the same word origins. Beech is concerned with ancient knowledge as revealed in old objects, places and writings. Beech indicates guidance from the past to gain insight, which protects and provides a solid base upon which all relies.

Birch (*Betula* spp.) – A lovely pale, fine-grained wood. Long associated with fertility and healing magic, birch twigs were used to bestow fertility on cattle and newlyweds, and children's cradles were made from its wood. Birch is one of the first trees to grow on bare soil and thus it births the entire forest. Criminals were at one time birched to drive out evil influences on them, to renew them for the new year. Birch was associated with Thor, probably in recognition of his role as an agricultural and fertility deity. Birch is an incredibly useful tree - nearly every part of it is edible, and its sap was an important source of sugar to Native Americans and early settlers. The inner bark provides a pain reliever and the leaves are used to treat arthritis. Its bark was used for everything from paper to canoe hulls, and axe handles were also made from Birch. Birch is most useful for fertility and healing spells.

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) – Blackthorn is a winter tree. The sloe, its fruits ripen and sweeten only after the nip of the frost. White flowers are seen even before the leaves in the spring. It is black barked with vicious thorns and grows in dense thickets. The wood is used in the cudgel shillelagh and Blasting Stick. Its thorns are used to pierce waxen images. Blackthorn indicates strong action of fate or outside influences that must be obeyed.

Elder (*Sambucus* spp.) - The Latin name *sambucus* is derived from a Greek word for a wind instrument made from elder. The pith can easily be removed from the small branches to make a flute. Elder regrows damaged branches with ease and can root rapidly from any part. A tea for purifying the blood can be made from the flowers and wine from the fruit, but in general the tree is poisonous. In Norse mythology, the Goddess Freya chose the black elder as her home. In medieval times it was the abode of witches and it was considered dangerous to sleep under its branches or to cut it down. Sticks of Elder were used as magickal horses by Witches. Elder indicates the end in the beginning and the beginning in the end. Life in Death and Death in Life.

Elm (*Ulmus* spp.) – A slightly fibrous, tan-colored wood with a slight sheen. Elm is often associated with Mother and Earth Goddesses, and was said to be the abode of faeries, explaining Kipling's injunction; "Ailim be the lady's tree; burn it not or cursed ye'll be". Elm wood is valued for its resistance to splitting, and the inner bark was used for cordage and chair caning. Elm adds stability and grounding to a spell.

Fir (*Abies* spp.) – Fir is a very tall slender tree that grows in mountainous regions on the upper slopes. Fir cones respond to rain by closing and the sun by opening. Fir can see over great distance to the far horizon beyond and below. Fir indicates high views and long sights with clear vision of what is beyond and yet to come.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) – A light, hard, apple-like wood. Hawthorn usually doesn't grow much bigger than a shrub, and is popular in England as a hedge plant. The wood from the Hawthorn provides the hottest fire known. Its leaves and blossoms are used to create a tea to aid with anxiety, appetite loss and poor circulation. The Greeks and Romans saw the hawthorn as symbolic of hope and marriage, but in medieval Europe it was associated with witchcraft and considered to be unlucky. This seeming contradiction is to be expected from a tree with such beautiful blossoms and such deadly-looking thorns. Hawthorn can be used for protection, love and marriage spells.

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) – Hazel is another food tree. In Celtic tradition, the Salmon of Knowledge is said to eat the 9 nuts of poetic wisdom dropped into its sacred pool from the hazel tree growing beside it. Each nut eaten by the salmon becomes a spot on its skin. The Hazel tree provided shade, protection and baskets. In Europe and North America, hazel is commonly used for 'water-witching' - the art of finding water with a forked stick. Magickally, hazel wood is used to gain knowledge, wisdom and poetic inspiration.

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) – A beautiful white wood with an almost invisible grain; looks very much like ivory. Holly is associated with the death and rebirth symbolism of winter in both Pagan and Christian lore. In Arthurian legend, Gawain (representing the Oak King of summer) fought the Green Knight, who was armed with a holly club to represent winter. It is one of the three timbers used in the construction of chariot wheel shafts. It was also used in spear shafts. The qualities of a spear shaft are balance and directness, as the spear must be hefted to be thrown the holly indicates directed balance and vigor to fight if the cause is just. Holly may be used in spells having to do with sleep or rest, and to ease the passage of death.

Larch (*Larix europaea*) – A light softwood, very similar to spruce. Larch is one of the few conifers which shed its needles in the winter. It is closely related to the North American tamarack (*Larix laricina*). The larch plays an important role in Sami (Lapp) and Siberian mythology where it takes the place of the ash as the World-tree. Their shamans use larch wood to rim their ceremonial drums. The smoke from burning larch is said to ward off evil spirits. Larch may be used for protection and to induce visions.

Maple (*Acer* spp.) - A very hard, pale, fine-grained wood. Although the sugar maple has the highest sugar content in its sap, all maple species can be tapped to make syrup and sugar, making them a vital resource to early North American settlers. In north-eastern North America, the annual 'sugaring-off' usually coincides with the vernal equinox, making it one of the first signs of spring. Maple can bring success and abundance.

Oak (*Quercus* spp.)

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) – A strong, straight-grained, slightly porous wood with a slight reddish hue. Its energy is a bit lighter and more 'fiery' than the other oaks.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*) – Darker and denser than red oak. Its strength and density have led to its being used in barrel-making and shipbuilding. It is useful for spells requiring strength and solidity.

Brown (English) Oak (*Quercus robur*) – A richly-colored dark brown wood. 'Bog oak' is brown oak which has fallen into a peat bog and been preserved there for hundreds of

years until it begins to have the consistency of coal. Brown oak has a very earthy feel, and is useful for grounding.

Oak has been considered sacred by just about every culture that has encountered the tree, but it was held in particular esteem by the Norse and Celts because of its size, longevity, and nutritious acorns. The oak is frequently associated with Gods of thunder and lightning such as Zeus, Thor, and the Lithuanian God Perkunas. This association may be due to the oak's habit of being hit by lightning during storms. Specific oak trees have also been associated with the 'Wild Hunt', which is led by Herne in England and by Wodin in Germany. In general, oak can be used in spells for protection, strength, success and stability; the different varieties will lend their own special 'flavor' to the magic.

Pine (*Pinus* spp.) – The Pine tree is an evergreen, its old title was "the sweetest of woods". Its needles are a valuable source of vitamin C and can loosen a tight chest. The scent of Pine is useful in the alleviation of guilt. The Bach's flower remedies lists it for dealing with feelings of guilt. Pine indicates issues of guilt within you.

Poplar (*Populus* spp.) – The White Poplar flourishes beside rivers, in marshes and in other watery areas. The pith is star shaped. The upper leaves are green, the underside is silver. The wood was used in the making of shields. Leaves move with every puff of wind. It is commonly referred to as the talking, whispering and quivering tree. The Anglo-Saxon rune poem seems to refer to the poplar as being associated with the rune berkano. Heracles wore a crown of poplar leaves when he retrieved Cerberus from Hades, and the upper surface of the leaves was thus darkened from Hades' smoky fumes. In Christian lore, the quaking poplar (aspen) was used to construct Christ's cross, and the leaves of the tree quiver when they remember this fact. The Poplar's ability to resist and to shield, its association with speech, language and the Winds indicates an ability to endure and conquer.

Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) – The Rowan tree (also called Mountain Ash) is long known for aid and protection against enchantment. Sticks of the Rowan were used to carve Runes on. It was also used in the art of metal divining. Rowan spays and crosses were placed over cattle in pens and over homes for protection. Its lovely red berries feed the birds in winter. The berries have a tiny pentagram on them. The pentagram is the ancient symbol of protection. The Rowan tree indicates protection and control of the senses from enchantment and beguiling.

Willow (*Salix babylonica*) – The willow is another water loving tree. Willow bark contains Salicin which is used in the treatment of rheumatic fever and various damp diseases. Her catkins, which appear in early spring before her leaves, attract bees to start the cycle of pollination. In western tradition it is a symbol of mourning and unlucky love. The Latin name for the weeping willow refers to the psalm in which the Hebrews mourn their captivity in Babylon by the willows. Willow indicates cycles, rhythms and the ebb and flux.

Yew (*Taxus baccata*) – A beautifully smooth, gold-colored wood with a wavy grain. All parts of the tree are poisonous except the fleshy covering of the berry, and its medicinal uses include a recently discovered treatment for cancer. Long associated with magick, death, rebirth and the runes, the yew may be the oldest-lived tree in the world. Ancient yews can be found in churchyards all over Britain, where they often pre-date even the oldest churches. There are some convincing arguments for it being the original 'World-

tree' of Scandinavian mythology. In Europe, yew wood was used for making bows, while on the northwest coast of North America, the Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) is used by the Haida and other tribes for making masks and boxes. Yew may be used to enhance magickal and psychic abilities, and to induce visions.

To learn more about this and other correspondences, get our *Magickal Correspondences* eBook at http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=118

Spell of the Month

Money Bottle Spell

a thin, tall bottle
5 pennies
5 dimes
5 quarters
5 kernels of dried corn
5 kernels of dried wheat (or 5 tsp. wheat flour)
5 sesame seeds
5 cinnamon sticks
5 cloves
5 whole allspice
5 pecans

Place each item into your thin, tall bottle (a spice bottle will do). Cap it tightly. Shake the bottle with your receptive hand for five minutes, while chanting:

Herbs and silver,
Copper and grain;
Work to increase
My money gain.

Place the money bottle on a table somewhere in your house. Leave your purse or wallet near the bottle when at home.

To receive more spells, get our *Wicca 101 and Beyond: A Witch's Grimoire* eBook at http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=108