



August Newsletter

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Important August Dates

(All times are CDT)

August 1 (crossquarter August 7) - Lughnasadh/Lammas

Lughnasadh/Lammas

Animals/Mythical Creatures – griffins, basilisks, roosters, calves, centaurs, phoenix

Gemstones – aventurine, citrine, peridot, sardonyx, yellow diamonds and citrine

Incense/Oil – wood aloe, 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-

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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 10, 1:09 pm - Full Moon

Grain Moon

When the Grain Moon glides to its place in the sky tonight, it will burn like a copper disk. This Moon oversees the start of the harvest season, so a ritual for it could be like an early Thanksgiving. Besides giving thanks for the harvest, we must be grateful for the personal harvests. We have sown, patiently waited, worked and now we reap. Give thanks for everything, including the wisdom gained along the way.

Take time to richly decorate your altar. Place a yellow candle in the center; surround it with brightly colored zinnias, goldenrod, small bundles of grain and produce. Finally, set out a small dish of cornmeal to honor corn, the most sacred of grains. After speaking the words below, listen quietly. Can you hear it? The katydids are scratching at the night--summer's end is near.

*After the Sun dips beyond the western sky,
The mellow Grain Moon reigns and rides high.
The wheat is brown, the corn is gold,
Thank you for my wisdom and the wealth I hold.*

~ James Kambos in Llewellyn's 2014 Witches' Datebook -
http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=848

August 25, 9:13 am - New Moon

In Virgo, we want to bring some structure and order to our lives. We feel like things have been out of sorts lately, and now we look around and assess what needs to be organized. We make lists of what we have to get done, and we try to get everything done in a timely fashion. We're focused on the small tasks that need to be accomplished, work hard, and do the best we can. We're willing to do the grunt work now, the work that we usually try to avoid, and can get a lot of work done. The spotlight can be shone on employers, employees, work environments, and the job market. Virgo also rules health, so we can hear some important health news. If you're a Virgo Sun, Moon, or rising, you may feel the effects of this moon most.

September 1 - Labor Day

A MAGICKAL POWDER TO CREATE HARMONY IN THE WORKPLACE

Is your office or building stressful? Try this to make your workplace a place of harmony and peace. Sprinkle this magical powder around when no one is looking. Create this powder on a Thursday evening for the strongest possible mixture. Recipe: 3 drops of rose absolute, 5 drops of sandalwood oil, 7 drops of lavender oil, a handful of talcum powder, 1 teaspoon dried powdered chamomile flowers (if available). Mix everything but the talc together in a ceramic bowl with a fork until well blended. Add the talcum powder and mix well. Visualize a warm blue light building and radiating from the powder as you mix. Do this until you are satisfied and gently pour the powder into a little paper envelope or sachet. Take it work the next morning.

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Witch SuperCenter August Sale Items

Large Celtic Knot Mortar & Pestle Set - Regular Price \$24.99, Sale Price \$21.99
Deluxe Wicca Starter Kit with Love Spell - Regular Price - \$81.99, Sale Price - \$77.99
Abalone Shell - \$10.99, Sale Price - \$9.99
The Sabbats eBook - Regular Price - \$4.99, Sale Price - \$3.99
Jasmine Spearmint 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

New Items at Witch SuperCenter

Bulk Herbs in Quart Jars -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=34

New sizes of Cedar Smudge Sticks -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=15

Beaded Plant Markers -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=8

Cedar Candle Holders -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=8&sort=20a&page=2

Cedar Slice Coasters -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=8&products_id=864

Herb of the Month

Ginseng - Fire/Sun; Gender - Masculine; Parts Used - Root; Magickal Properties - Love, Healing, Protection, Lust; Uses - Carried to attract love, ensure sexual potency, draw money and protect one's health; burn to repel negative forces and break hexes and curses; tea is said to be a lust-inducing drink; can be a substitute for Mandrake

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

Goshenite - a stone of truthfulness that encourages full truth in all actions and particularly in giving one's word. Goshenite brings self-control, creativity, and originality. It makes communication easier and can stabilize relationships. Magicaklly, this is a very powerful stone which can be used to reveal other people's secrets, find out when they are lying to you, see through illusions and break any spells that are designed to confuse or mislead you. It can also be used in spells to protect yourself from malicious gossip and ill wishing.

Rune of the Month

R

Raidho (R: Wagon or chariot.) – Travel, both in physical terms and those of lifestyle direction; A journey, vacation, relocation, evolution, change of place or setting; Seeing a larger perspective; Seeing the right move for you to make and deciding upon it; Personal rhythm, world rhythm, dance of life. Raidho Reversed or Merkstave: Crisis, rigidity, stasis, injustice, irrationality; Disruption, dislocation, demotion, delusion, possibly a death.

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

Four of Pentacles - A man holds tight to his four pentacles in this card. The man in the three of pentacles, who got work, money, luck, health is, in this card, holding on tight to what he developed. He is not investing it or spending it or sharing it; he is not trying to get more work or add on a new room to his house. He is just trying to keep things still and unchanging.

This is sometimes called the miser card, but that may be too harsh of a judgment on it. There are times when it's good to hold onto what you have and this card can be read as advice that there are currently no good investments, so hold onto your money, or that this is not a time to change jobs or take on new projects. Just keep doing what you're doing. It may even suggest that you shouldn't talk about your work or the presence of a non-disclosure agreement.

On the positive side, this tells the querent that he or she is in a position of status, health, money, even comfort. Business is good and stable, work is steady and money is in the bank. There is, however, a negative to this card in that the querent might be holding on too tight. There may be fear of spending any money, or fear of taking on any new work.

In the most extreme negative, this is the card of hoarders and packrats. It also is the card of jealous relationships where one person views the other as their property and won't let them leave the house. This can be the card of the shut-ins and agoraphobics.

So while this card can be good advice to the spendthrift or shopaholic that they need to hold onto their money, or to the workaholic to not take on more jobs, it can also be the opposite, advising the miser to be more generous with good luck and good fortune. It is a card that can be telling the querent to enjoy what they have because holding still leads to stagnation.

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

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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

Protection from Evil Spell

Your Staff/wand

Silver or blue shiny glitter

This spell should be performed in a quiet place, preferably outside. You will need your staff (or wand) for this spell. It is best if the staff used is blue, white or silver. The easiest

way to achieve this is to bind a ribbon, or ribbons, around it for the spell. This means you can remove them afterward.

It is best to go outside for this spell, as the air movement will help disperse the glitter, and the magick. Cast a circle, or create a sacred space. Go to each quarter in turn (start with the West, then North, East and South), and pound or tap the ground with your staff/wand chanting:

I call thee, you who guard the watchtowers of the (direction) to guide me through the darkness, and ensure my safety.

Do this for all 4 quarters. Then, stand in the center and say,

"In the shadows, evils hide,
Ready to draw me from love's side,
But with your help I shall be strong
And banish all that do me wrong
Send them away, send them astray
Never again to pass my way,
So mote it be"

As you say the last 3 lines, scatter the glitter in a circle around you. Release the circle, and have something to eat to restore your energies!

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