

9 Sacred Woods Workshop

Nine woods in the Cauldron go,
Burn them fast and burn them slow.

Birch in the fire goes
To represent what the Lady knows.
Oak in the forest towers with might,
In the fire it brings the God's insight.

Rowan is a tree of power,
Causing life and magic to flower.

Willows at the waterside stand
Ready to help us to the Summerland.

Hawthorn is burned to purify
And to draw faerie to thine eye.

Hazel - the tree of wisdom and learning
Adds its strength to the bright fire burning.

White are the flowers of Apple tree
That brings us fruits of fertility.

Grapes grow upon the vine
Giving us both joy and wine.

Fir does mark the evergreen
To represent immortality seen.

Elder is the Lady's tree
Burn it not or cursed you'll be.

Birch

Associated with New beginnings, renewal, change & feminine energy

When a forested area burns, Birch is the first tree to grow back, and thus is associated with rebirth and regeneration. Workings using Birch add momentum and a bit of extra "oomph" to new endeavors. The Birch is also associated with magic done for creativity and fertility, as well as healing and protection. It is the first month in the Celtic tree calendar, following the Winter Solstice, and is related to the Ogham (pronounced ow uhm) symbol Beith (pronounced BETH). Use Birch branches to craft your own besom for magical workings, and in spells and rituals related to enchantments, renewal, purification, fresh starts and new beginnings.

As one of the first trees to put on her spring-dress it is only natural that the Birch has always been associated with the life giving force and has thus featured prominently in all manner of fertility rites and magic. Birch signals the arrival of spring and traditionally farmers have observed her progress as an indicator to sowing their wheat

The protective nature of the Birch may be harnessed by the presence of bunches of its twigs which are kept to drive away evil spirits. Known as Lady of the Woods, Paper Birch and White

Birch. Carefully gather strips of the bark at the New Moon. With red ink, write on a Birch strip: "Bring me true love." Burn this along with a love incense, saying "Goddess of love, God of desire, Bring to me sweet passion's fire." The specific name of a god/goddess may be added. Or cast the bark into a stream or other flowing water, saying: "Message of love, I set you free, to capture a love and return to me."

Oak

Associated with Abundance, success, confidence, masculine energy

The mighty Oak is strong, powerful, and typically towering over all of its neighbors. The Oak King rules over the summer months, and this tree was sacred to the Druids. The Celts called this month Duir, which some scholars believe to mean "door," the root word of "Druid." The Oak is connected with spells for protection and strength, fertility, money and success, and good fortune.

In many pre-Christian societies, the Oak was often associated with the leaders of the gods—Zeus, Thor, Jupiter, etc. The strength and masculinity of the Oak was honored through the worship of these gods

Oak has been considered sacred by just about every culture that has encountered the tree, but it was held in particular esteem by the Celts because of its size, longevity, and nutritious acorns. The Oak was the "King of Trees" in a grove. Magic wands were made of its wood. Oak galls, known as Serpent Eggs, were used in magickal charms. Acorns gathered at night held the greatest fertility powers. The Druids and Priestesses listened to the rustling oak leaves and the wrens in the trees for divinatory messages. Burning oak leaves purifies the atmosphere. It can be used in spells for protection, strength, success and stability; the different varieties will lend their own special 'flavour' to the magic.

Rowan

Associated with Success, power, protection & life energy

Known by the Celts as the Ogham (pronounced ow uhm) symbol Luis (pronounced loush), the Rowan is associated with astral travel, personal power, and success. A charm carved into a bit of a Rowan twig will protect the wearer from harm. The Norsemen were known to have used Rowan branches as rune staves of protection. In some countries, Rowan is planted in graveyards to prevent the dead from lingering around too long. Rowan is also associated with the Celtic hearth goddess Brighid

Walking sticks made of rowan are used to protect the user from the spirits of the woods.

Also known as Mountain Ash, Witchwood and Sorb Apple, has long known as an aid and protection against enchantment. Sticks of the Rowan were used to carve Runes on. 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 and are especially

poisonous. The pentagram is the ancient symbol of protection. The Rowan tree indicates protection and control of the senses from enchantment and beguiling. The Rowan was sacred to the Druids. It is a very magical tree used for wands, rods, amulets and spells. A forked Rowan branch can help find water. Rowan wands are for knowledge, locating metal and general divination.

Willow

Associated with Intuition, divination, & mastery

A Willow planted near your home will help ward away danger, particularly the type that stems from natural disaster such as flooding or storms. They offer protection, and are often found planted near cemeteries. In addition to its use as a healing herb, Willow was also harvested for wicker work. Baskets, small curricles, and even bee hives were constructed with this bendable, flexible wood. This wood is related to healing, growth of knowledge, nurturing and women's mysteries, and is represented by the Celtic Ogham (pronounced ow uhm) symbol Saille (pronounced SHAIuh).

Also known as White Willow, Tree of Enchantment and Witches' Asprin. One of the seven sacred trees of the Irish, a Druid sacred Tree. The willow is a Moon tree sacred to the White Lady, Its groves were considered so magical that priests, priestesses and all types of artisans sat among these trees to gain eloquence, inspiration, skills and prophecies. For a wish to be granted, ask permission of the Willow, explaining your desire. Select a pliable shoot and tie a loose knot in it while expressing what you want. When the wish is fulfilled. return and untie the knot. Remember to thank the Willow and leave a gift.

Hawthorn

Associated with Happiness, nature, faeries & Druid magic

The Hawthorn is associated with magic related to masculine power, business decisions, making professional connections. The Hawthorn is also associated with the realm of Faerie, and when the Hawthorn grows in tandem with an Ash and Oak, it is said to attract the Fae. This prickly-thorned tree is associated with cleansing, protection and defense.

Tie a thorn with a red ribbon and use it as a protective amulet in your home, or place a bundle of thorns under a baby's crib to keep bad energy away. It is represented by the Celtic Ogham (pronounced ow uhm) symbol Huath (pronounced "OO-ah")

Also known as May Tree and White Thorn. Wands made of this wood are of great power. The blossoms are highly erotic to men. Hawthorn can be used for protection, love and marriage spells

Hazel

Associated with Wisdom, dreams, prosperity

Hazel is often associated in Celtic lore with sacred wells and magical springs containing the salmon of knowledge. This is a good month to do workings related to wisdom and knowledge,

dowsing and divination, and dream journeys. Hazel was a handy tree to have around. It was used by many English pilgrims to make staffs for use upon the road. Not only was it a sturdy walking stick, it also provided a modicum of self-defense for weary travelers. Certainly, it could have been used as well for ritual. Hazel was used in weaving of baskets by medieval folk, and the leaves were fed to cattle because it was believed this would increase the cow's supply of milk. It is represented by the Celtic Ogham symbol Coll

Wands made of this wood symbolize White Magick and healing. Forked sticks are used to find water or buried treasure. If outside and in need of magickal protection quickly draw a circle around yourself with a Hazel branch. To enlist the aid of plant fairies, string hazelnuts on a cord and hang up in your house or ritual room. Magically, Hazel wood is used to gain knowledge, wisdom and poetic inspiration.

Apple Tree

Associated with choices, love, and healing, divination, the underworld, and eternal life. Another sacred tree to the Druids. Use apple cider in any old spells calling for blood or wine.

Apple indicates choice, and is useful for love and healing magic.

There are a number of deities connected to apples, including Eris, the goddess of discord, and Pomona, who watched over orchards.

The apple is a symbol of abundance and bounty in many cultures—a plentiful apple crop means the rest of your harvest will be prosperous.

Grape

Grapes have traditionally symbolized abundance and fertility. Those who had a healthy, hearty grape harvest were practically guaranteed to be prosperous. Tied to the feminine energy of Water, grapes represent the fertility behind creation and manifestation.

The transformative energies of this sweet berry give you the energy boost you need to bring all of your dreams to life.

Abundance – Plant a vine near your magical garden as a form of garden magic to attract abundance into your space and life.

Fertility – Eat the fruit while visualizing a safe pregnancy to enhance fertility.

Optimism – Anoint your third eye with grapeseed oil to brighten your outlook on life.

Spirituality – Create a pentacle out of the fresh vine to increase your spiritual connection to your higher self, here on Earth.

Fir

Associated with good luck, clear sight, what is to come

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.

Elder

Associated with Judgment, Transformation, Death & Regeneration, Fate, The Inevitable
The leaves and berries are used for protection and in breaking spells that were cast against you or to undo spells of evil intent. Growing an elder in your garden will protect your property from misfortune and harm. In Europe they planted elder in cemeteries to keep away the evil spirits.

The Elder is a veritable medicine chest with its bark, leaves, flowers and berries all being used in herbal medicine to treat many ailments including bruises, wounds, colds, hayfever, respiratory illness and fevers. Its berries are particularly potent and the Druids regarded any that remained on the tree in December as a gift from the Earth Goddess. These were gathered and made into a sacred wine which was drunk to aid clairvoyance. Its wood is said to protect against enchantment, negativity and lightning and whistles or flutes made from elder have a reputation for aiding fairy contact.