

Samhain

The Witch's New Year

Samhain, pronounced "sow-in," marks the Celtic New Year and the beginning of the dark half of the year. It is a time to honor the dead, celebrate the harvest, and prepare for winter. The veil between the worlds is at its thinnest, making it an ideal time for spirit communication, divination, and introspection.

Correspondences

- Colors: Black, Orange, Purple, White
- Herbs & Plants: Hawthorn, Mugwort, Rosemary, Pumpkin
- Crystals: Obsidian, Amethyst, Citrine, Black Tourmaline
- Animals: Owls, Ravens, Cats
- Foods: Apples, Nuts, Root Vegetables
- Ritual Tools: Black Cauldron, Candles (Black, Orange, White)



Symbols and Imagery:

- Hawthorn: Symbolizes protection and the spirit realm.
- Pumpkin: Represents abundance and protection.
- Black Cauldron: Used for transformation and magical work.
- Candles: For protection (black), abundance (orange), and spirit communication (white).

Rituals and Practices:

1. Ancestral Altar Ritual:

- Setup: Create a space with photographs, heirlooms, and elemental representations (salt, candle, water, incense).
- Offerings: Place bread, fruit, or drink as offerings.
- Process: Light candles, invite ancestors, meditate, and reflect.

2. Shadow Work Ritual:

- Items Needed: Black candle, mirror, journal.
- Process: Light the candle, gaze into the mirror, write down reflections, and set intentions for transformation.

3. Ogham Divination:

- Items Needed: Ogham staves.
- Process: Draw three staves representing past, present, and future; interpret using a guide.

4. Protection Spell with Hawthorn:

- Items Needed: Hawthorn branch, black and white candles.
- Process: Light black candle, then white; hold Hawthorn, visualize a protective shield, and extinguish candles.

"The harvest is gathered, the darkness embraced. On Samhain, we honor the cycles of life and death, knowing that from the dark earth, new seeds will grow."