



MAY 1
mayday



ALTAR DECORATIONS

acorns, antlers, baskets, candles, flowers of all colors, herbs, maypoles, sticks, cups, cauldrons, seeds, wreaths, ribbons

COLORS

light blue, green, pink, purple, red, yellow

HERBS AND FLOWERS

coriander, dandelion, paprika, daffodil, fern, crocus, dragon's blood, roses, lilac, bluebells, primroses, woodruff, daisies, mugwort

TREES

hawthorn, birch, willow, rowan, oak

INCENSE AND OILS

rose, jasmine, vanilla, ylang-ylang, musk, frankincense, peach

CRYSTALS AND STONES

rose quartz, emerald, bery, tourmaline

ANIMALS

bee, cat, cattle, leopard, lynx, frog, rabbit, dove, swallow, swan

SPELLWORK

binding, fertility, love magic, faery magic

Beltane

The May Day celebration of love and fertility

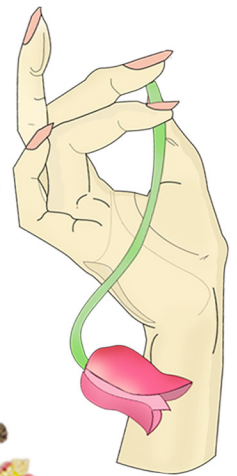
Beltane is about halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice.

The Greenwood marriage

Tonight is the Sacred Marriage of Flora the May Bride and the Green Man. It is the union of the Sky and the Earth, the God and the Goddess. The land will flourish under their Lovemaking.

And she becomes pregnant.

This is the time of year when the masculine and feminine unite in creative energies. Beltane is about love, sexuality and sensuality, passion and conception, youth, wildness and joy. Beltane is a time of partnerships and fertility.



The bonfire

The word 'Beltane' originates from the Celtic God 'Bel', meaning 'the bright one' and the Gaelic word 'teine' meaning fire.

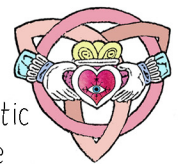


Together they make 'Bright Fire'.

Lighting the Beltane fires was a symbolic move to recall the growing power of the sun and cleanse the community.

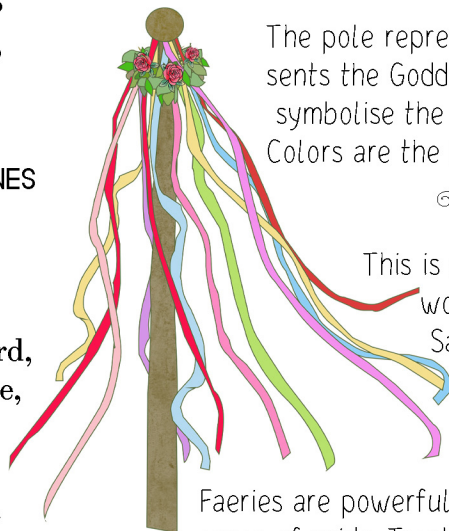
Fying the knot

Handfasting is an ancient Celtic ritual in which the hands are tied together to symbolize the binding of two lives. Beltane is the Great Wedding of the Goddess and the God, it is a popular time for pagan weddings or Handfastings.



The Maypole

The pole represents the God and the ring of flowers at the top represents the Goddess. The ribbons and the ensuing weaving dance symbolise the spiral of Life and the union of the Goddess and God. Colors are the Rainbow spectrum.



Welcome the fae

This is a time when the veil between worlds is thin. The same is true at Samhain but instead of spirits of the deceased coming to visit we have magical beings from the land of fae – faeries, elves, gnomes, etc




Faeries are powerful magical beings with an endless life, and a sense of pride. Treat them with respect. fragile



East

Guardians of the Eastern Gate,
I call to the creatures of Air.
I call the graceful, dancing Sylphs,
Who dwell within the winds of the Earth.
Blessed creatures of the East arise!
Charge my Circle with clarity of thought,
That I may conduct this Rite
With honor and purpose.
As I have spoken, let it be so!




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South

Guardians of the Southern Gate,
I call to the creatures of Fire.
I call the wise Salamanders,
Who dwell within the fires of the Earth.
Blessed creatures of the South arise!
Charge my Circle
With your power and wisdom,
That my magick be strong and swift.
As I have spoken, let it be so!




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West

Guardians of the Western Gate,
I call to the creatures of Water.
I call the mysterious Undines
Who dwell within the waters of the Earth.
Blessed creatures of the West arise!
Charge my Circle
With your psychic intuition,
That my understanding be true and deep.
As I have spoken, let it be so!




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North

Guardians of the Northern Gate,
I call to the creatures of Earth.
I call the clever, industrious Gnomes,
Who dwell deep within the Earth.
Blessed Creatures of the North arise!
Charge my Circle
With your protection,
That my Rite be stable and grounded.
As I have spoken, let it be so!



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East



*Guardians of the Eastern Gate,
I thank you for your presence and intellect,
During my Sacred Beltane Rite.
Spirits of the East go in love and peace.
Hail and farewell!*

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South



*Guardians of the Southern Gate,
I thank you for your presence and wisdom,
During my Sacred Beltane Rite.
Spirits of the South go in love and peace.
Hail and farewell!*

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West



*Guardians of the Western Gate,
I thank you for your presence and intuition,
During my Sacred Beltane Rite.
Spirits of the West go in love and peace.
Hail and farewell!*

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North



*Guardians of the Northern Gate,
I thank you for your presence and protection,
During my Sacred Beltane Rite.
Spirits of the North go in love and peace.
Hail and farewell!*

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Beltane Solitary Ritual Honoring Growth

This ritual is intended to honor growth, both the growing things of the earth and the ever-evolving soul within the individual magickal practitioner. Though especially designed for solitary use, the ritual format here described can easily be adapted to group practice. If you have friends joining you for the rite, just do everything in unison, or take turns handling different parts of the ritual according to aptitudes and interests. Do feel free to adapt and enhance these basic ritual proceedings to better suit your own personal beliefs and preferences.

Purpose:

Attune with nature's tides, attain deeper understanding of the process of growth as it occurs within nature and within one's self, express gratitude for the growth of vegetation that sustains us, contemplate and "take stock" of personal growth, initiate and manifest opportunities for even greater personal growth.

Setting:

Outside, in the morning

Supplies:

- Two tea light candles or taper candles with candleholders: preferably one gold or yellow, one silver or white*
- Fresh plants, herbs, and flowers from your region, roots attached*
- Large bowl of water*

- *Two pieces of paper and a pen*
- *One small square of green fabric*
- *A piece of gold or yellow string*

Pre-Ritual Preparations:

Take a bath or a shower to help cleanse away both physical and psychic impurities. Imagine any negativity or staleness flowing out of you and into the water as it washes over you. If you like, add a handful of sea salt to the bath water to help you attune with solar energies. If you're having a shower, try rubbing your skin with sugar or oatmeal to shed away unwanted vibrations while connecting to Beltane themes of sweetness and abundance.

Go skyclad, with no clothes whatsoever, or dress in something you feel is suitable for a growth ritual. Natural fabrics in shades of green would be an excellent choice. You'll want something comfortable that helps you feel natural, strong, and earthy. For an added boost of magickal power, accessorize with gold or copper jewelry, both attuned with solar energies. Make a list of accomplishments, noting all the ways you've grown as a person over the past year. Make another list outlining any new goals for personal growth that you would like to achieve this season. Place the bowl of water on top of the list of past accomplishments.

Arrange the candles on either side of the bowl, placing the gold or yellow candle to the right, and the white or silver candle to the left. Place the fresh plants in front of the bowl, on top of the list of new goals for personal growth.

The Ritual:

Sit and place your palms flat down on the ground. Take several deep breaths until you feel calm and centered. Then extend this feeling of calm outward beyond the boundaries of your physical body, so that it encompasses and encloses the entire ritual space. Stand up and walk a clockwise circle around the space, while at the same time projecting a light, loving energy through your chest, flat palms, eyes, or wand tip. If you're having trouble feeling it, it might help to think of something or someone you love very deeply, then let that emotion radiate outward, illuminating the ritual

area in a bright, white light. Another idea is to walk around the space while ringing a bell, which acts as a quick and fairly foolproof method of clearing away stale, negative energies while at the same time inviting fresh, positive energy. The area surrounding you is now filled with a peaceful vibration, you're ready to delve into the heart of the ritual.

Look around you. Notice the plants, their growth dependent on the interplay of the earth, sun, and rain. Touch the ground, stroking the living plants that spring from the earth beneath you. Do you feel the powerful energy of the earth, vibrating with life and creation, throbbing like a heartbeat, pulsating with both love and indifference? Let this energy come into you, literally pulling it into your body through the point of contact between your hands and the living earth. This might sound like an oversimplification, but it isn't. You have the ability to move and direct energy through the conscious application of your will and intention.

Think about what you want to happen energy-wise, then let your feelings guide you, noticing how your body responds throughout the process. If you're actually moving or directing energy into or through your body, there's usually a physical sensation that goes along with it. You might feel the energy moving through your body as a subtle tingle, as a strong and sudden jolt, "shock," or shiver, as a feeling of heaviness or lightness, or as a sensation of warmth or coolness. Sensations vary depending on the individual, but certain energies do seem to have outstanding characteristics a great many of us experience very similarly. In this ritual, for instance, the earth energy you're invoking into your body is likely to have a warm, strong, vibrant feel. As you start to feel it, let it take over, allowing it reign over your body and emotion until any sense of ego is nil. If you like, rub some dirt on your skin or touch your body with green plants or flowers to enhance the feeling. You've now invoked the earth element, the powers of which are now filling you completely and flowing through you freely.

Next, turn your attentions to the bowl of water. Think of the rivers, the oceans, the lakes, the seas, and think of the rain that fills them. Think of the water beneath the earth, above the earth, and on the earth. Drink from the bowl, envisioning the water as the flow of a river or droplets of cool rain. Notice how your body feels as the water moves through you, quenching thirst and fueling transformation. Invite this energy to stay within you for the course of the ritual.

Having now invoked both earth and water, envision yourself as the damp soil, wet and dark and warm as a womb.

Pick up the fresh plants that you've placed on top of the list of new goals you'd like to achieve. Read over the list as you cradle the plants gently in your open hands. Think of these plants as the very hopes and dreams outlined on the list of goals, and feel the emotion within those desires. Let that energy pour into the plants, charging them with a feeling of love and filling them also with the powers of earth and water that should still be coursing freely throughout your body. Place the plants in the water and say:

*"These are the dreams of (insert your own full name),
a child of the earth, moon, sun, and sea."*

Light the silver or white candle, representative of the moon. Hold the candle above the bowl and think of the gravitational pull of the moon literally moving the oceans, manifesting and directing the tides of the water that covers more than 70 percent of our planet's surface. Think of how the tides affect the weather, and how the weather in turn affects the lives of Earth's plants and animals. Think also of the fact that your body's composition is more than 50 percent water, and how, like the seas, the moon sways our inner emotional tides, as well. Let the idea of your dependence on the moon sink in, then allow your feelings of gratitude to flow into the candle flame and into the water below. Think of your list of past accomplishments that lies beneath the bowl of water, and think of the new dreams you want to achieve, represented by the plants you've placed in the bowl. With your hand that's not holding the candle, swirl the water in the bowl clockwise as you say:

"Great moon, as you move the sea, so too move me!"

Watch the plants swirl around in the water and envision your goals manifesting, tides turning in your favor thanks to the help of the moon. Return the candle to its place at the left side of the bowl.

Next, light the gold or yellow candle, representative of the sun. Hold the candle up to the sun, and think about the sunlight streaming into the candle flame, adding solar energy to its already bright and fiery power. Walk clockwise around the ritual

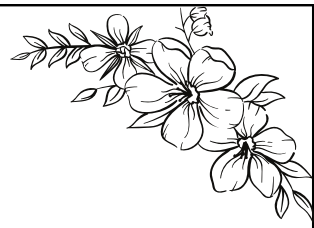
space, noticing how the living plants that spring from the ground seem to pulsate with the same solar charge now infused within the candle flame. Invite that solar charge to flow into you, also. Let the candle flame draw the sunlight, then direct the energy down through the wax and into your body. As you walk around the circle, envision the plants around you growing, fueled by the sunlight, earth, and water. Stop in front of the bowl of water and hold the candle high above it.

Envision yourself growing and sense the cellular and molecular processes going on within your body, just as dependent on the sunlight, earth, and water as the vegetation surrounding you. Think about the process of photosynthesis that occurs within the green parts of plants, a process in which pure sunlight is transformed into nutrients that fuel the plant's growth. Look now at the plants floating in the bowl of water before you. Feel the solar energy still pulsating within your body, warm and bright, fiery and strong. Ask the sun itself to help you fuel your dreams, then direct all that amplified solar power now coursing through you and through the candle to enter into the plants in the bowl. As you do so, envision yourself growing ten feet tall, a thriving giant radiating with health, vigor, and success, just like a mighty tree playing king of the forest. Say:

*"Great sun, fuel and energy of Earth,
charge me up now, give my future dreams birth!"*

Place the candle back in its spot to the right of the basin. Let both candles burn out completely, and leave the basin of water with the plants in it outside overnight. Place the list of new goals in a sunny spot in your home. The list of past accomplishments you can keep for sentimental purposes or discard; its magickal work is done.

The next morning, remove the plants from the bowl and set them in the sun to dry. Pour the water on the earth. Once the plants are dried, tie them up in the small piece of cloth (preferably green for growth), and secure the bundle with the length of gold or yellow thread, colored in tune with powerful solar vibrations. Place the bundle on top of the list of new goals that should be sitting somewhere in your home in a sunny spot. The rite now complete, you should feel very much in tune with Beltane's energy flow, and your inner process of personal and spiritual growth will be highly accelerated, at least temporarily. Make the most of it!



BELTANE BLOSSOM CROWN SPELL

DIRECTIONS

INGREDIENT

- A selection of fresh flowers and greenery, preferably in a variety of colors and shapes. Wildflowers, roses, daisies, and any other spring blossoms work beautifully.
- Floral wire or a flexible vine wreath as a base for the crown.
- Floral tape or thin wire to secure the flowers to the crown base.
- A clean, quiet space where you can work comfortably.

WHEN TO USE THIS SPELL

The Beltane Blossom Crown Spell is a delightful way to celebrate Beltane and connect with the beauty and vitality of the season. Wear it proudly as a symbol of your connection to the earth and the energies of growth and abundance.



1. Begin by finding a peaceful place to work, preferably outdoors or near a window with plenty of natural light. You may wish to cleanse the area by smudging with sage or incense to create a sacred space.
2. Gather your fresh flowers and greenery, ensuring they are clean and free from pests. As you gather them, take a moment to appreciate the beauty and vitality of each blossom.
3. Shape the floral wire or flexible vine wreath into a circle that comfortably fits your head. If using wire, you can create a loop at each end to secure it together.
4. Start by selecting one flower as the centerpiece of your crown. Attach it to the crown base using floral tape or wire, securing it firmly but gently.
5. Continue adding flowers and greenery around the crown base, working your way outward. You can create a symmetrical design or a more random and natural arrangement, depending on your preference.
6. As you attach each blossom, focus on the intention of your Beltane Blossom Crown, which can include celebrating the vibrant energies of spring, connecting with the earth's fertility, and embracing the beauty of nature.
7. While crafting your crown, you can also chant or repeat a mantra that resonates with your Beltane intentions. For example:
 8. "In Beltane's bloom, I find my grace, Nature's beauty in this sacred space. With flowers and greenery, I now adorn, A crown of Beltane to be reborn."
9. Once your crown is complete and you are satisfied with its design, hold it in your hands and infuse it with your energy and intentions. Imagine the vibrant and fertile energy of Beltane flowing through you and into the crown.
10. Gently place the Beltane Blossom Crown on your head. As you do so, feel the energy of the earth's fertility and the beauty of spring enveloping you.
11. Spend some time in quiet meditation, connecting with the energies of Beltane and the symbolism of your crown.
12. After your meditation, you can wear the crown throughout your Beltane celebrations or rituals. You can also choose to leave it as an offering in a natural setting to honor the season and the earth's fertility.

Red



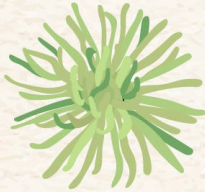
Commonly presented to those we love romantically, red flowers represent passion, energy, and love. As red is such a bold colour, sending someone a red bouquet will be sure to give them a boost of energy.

Yellow



Yellow, which is often associated with gold, is known for bringing out feelings of happiness and joy within us. This still rings true with flowers and giving someone a lovely bunch of yellow flowers symbolises those things we desire the most: happiness, friendship, and new beginnings.

Green



Green is a colour which is almost synonymous with nature but, in flowers, it also represents resilience, health, youth, and good fortune. Providing its recipient with a feel of restfulness, a hue of green in any bouquet symbolises hope, renewal, and optimism.

Orange



Similar to the hue of the sun, orange flowers symbolise growth, warmth, and expansion. It's also the colour of community and friendship - sending someone orange flowers is a sure sign of togetherness.

Blue



Blue flowers really speak to the dreamers amongst us as blue is said to symbolise our thoughts, our imaginations, and even the clarity in our dreams. Blue flowers can be calming and can soothe even the most anxious of recipients.

Violet



Both energising and spiritual, violet flowers remind us of the nature of connectivity: we're all connected to a divine system. Violet also represents nobility and royalty and can be used to symbolise faith.

Indigo



Indigo flowers represent emotion, expression, and depth so they are perfect to present to those busy bees who do too much as they offer a sense of stillness.

White



White is usually associated with purity and innocence and white flowers represent simple beauty. A white bouquet will symbolise elegance and modesty.

Pink



When we think of pink, we think of happiness, gentility, and grace. Regardless of the shape or size of the flower, pink petals symbolise joy, youth, and innocence.

Lavender



Lavender flowers represent femininity and they're widely considered to be the most precious flowers around. These blossoms symbolise grace, refinement, and elegance and are the perfect gift for the strong woman in your life.

Prepare an even number of ribbons, cutting them to one-and-a-half times the length of the maypole.



1 Divide dancers into groups.



2 Take positions, holding ribbons.



3 Skip in opposite directions.



6 Tie or weight ribbons when complete.



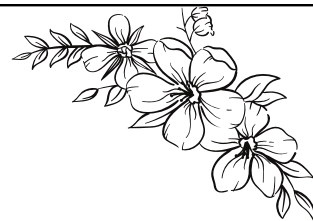
5 Go over the next dancer's ribbon.



4 Go under one dancer's ribbon.

weave a maypole

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MAYPOLE DANCE SPELL

DIRECTIONS

INGREDIENT

- A Maypole or a decorated pole (you can create one with a long pole or branch)
- Colorful ribbons in various colors (representing the elements and intentions)
- A quiet and open outdoor space
- A group of participants (friends or fellow practitioners)
- Music or drums (optional but adds to the festive atmosphere)
- A Beltane altar with representations of the God and Goddess
- Offerings for the God and Goddess (flowers, fruits, wine, or anything symbolic)

WHEN TO USE THIS SPELL

This Beltane Maypole Dance Spell is a joyful and festive way to celebrate Beltane, harness the energies of fertility and union, and set intentions for growth, abundance, and love. May your Maypole Dance bring you the blessings of this vibrant season.



1. Choose a beautiful outdoor location for your Beltane Maypole Dance. Ensure you have enough space for the Maypole and dancing area.
2. Decorate the Maypole by attaching the colorful ribbons at the top. The ribbons should be long enough for participants to hold onto and dance around the pole.
3. Set up your Beltane altar nearby, with representations of the God and Goddess. Place your offerings on the altar.
4. Gather your group of participants and stand in a circle around the Maypole.
5. Begin the ritual by invoking the God and Goddess. You can use your own words or a traditional Beltane invocation, expressing your intention for this Maypole Dance to celebrate the union of energies.
6. As you prepare to dance, each participant should choose a ribbon of a color that resonates with their intentions. For example, red for passion, green for growth, yellow for abundance, etc.
7. Start the music or drums, creating a joyful and festive atmosphere. Begin to dance around the Maypole, holding onto your chosen ribbon.
8. As you dance, envision your intentions for Beltane manifesting with each step. Feel the energies of the God and Goddess infusing your movements.
9. As you continue dancing, intertwine your ribbon with those of the other participants, symbolizing the weaving of energies and the unity of the group.
10. Chant or sing Beltane songs or chants that resonate with your intentions. You can find traditional Beltane songs or create your own.
11. Dance and chant for as long as you feel the energy building and the connection strengthening.
12. When you sense that the energy has reached its peak, come to a stop and stand in a circle around the Maypole.
13. Each participant, one by one, should take a moment to tie their ribbon onto the Maypole. As you do so, state your intention or offer a blessing.
14. Once all ribbons are tied, offer thanks to the God and Goddess for their presence and blessings. Present the offerings from the Beltane altar as a token of your gratitude.
15. Conclude the ritual by releasing any excess energy, grounding yourself, and thanking the participants for their presence and energy.
16. Leave the Maypole standing as a symbol of the union of energies and the intentions set during the Beltane Maypole Dance.



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*What is the beltaine energy around you now

*How can you remain grounded

*What is bringing you abundance now

*How can you support your growth for the next 6 months

*Most Fertile area

*Beltaine tarot message

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