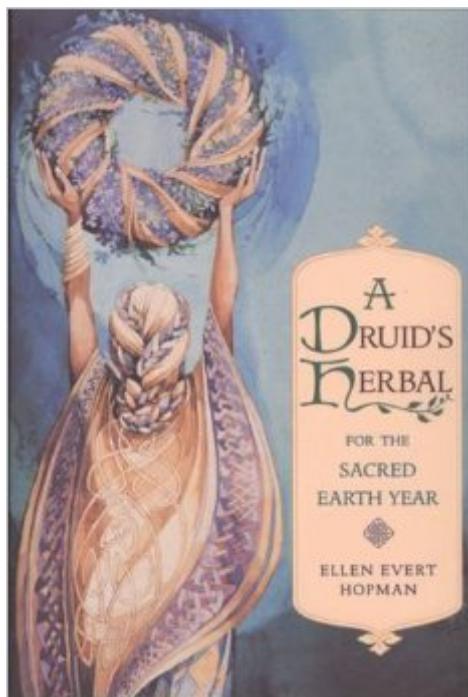


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# A Druid's Herbal For The Sacred Earth Year



## Synopsis

For the ancient Druids, the healing and magical properties of herbs were inseparable from the larger cycles of the seasons, the movements of the planets, and the progression of a human life. A Druidâ™s Herbal shows the reader how to use herbs when creating rituals to celebrate festivals and significant life passages such as births, house blessings, weddings, funerals, and naming ceremonies. Drawing on extensive research and a deep personal experience with Pagan traditions, Ellen Evert Hopman explores the history and folklore surrounding the eight major Celtic festivals: Samhain, Winter Solstice, Imbolc, Spring Equinox, Beltaine, Summer Solstice, Lugnasad, and Fall Equinox. Included in each discussion are complete instructions on the medicinal and magical uses of the herbs associated with each celebration. Using these Celtic traditions as examples, the author suggests ways to incorporate the symbolic and magical power of herbs into personal rituals that honor all phases of life from childbirth to last rites. Also included are chapters on how to prepare herbal tinctures, salves, and poultices; herbs used by the Druids; herbal alchemy and the planets; and the relationships between herbs and sacred places. Filled with practical information and imaginative suggestions for using herbs for healing, ceremony, and magic, this book is an indispensable and comprehensive guide to age-old herbal practices.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wow! Whether you are a witch, an herbalist, a druid enthusiast, or just an interested party, this book is incredibly thorough, interesting, and informative. It thoroughly explains the origins, uses (both

medical and magical), and preparations of many herbs. Unlike many other herbals, this book freely discusses poisonous and intoxicating herbs, which is a blessing to those using herbs in magical work. It also covers the preparations (and uses) of tinctures, salves, poultices, teas, and other remedies. On top of all of this, you get a glimpse of the Druidic culture! I highly recommend this book.

Within the pages of this book's beautiful exterior lies much information for pagans, heathens, druids who are interested in the use of herbs. This also has an overview of Ogham, the tree alphabet. Starting with Samhain, the Celtic New year, this book explains the herbs which are used at the great tides of the year along with the traditional practices of each of the yearly tides. It has ideas for acorn and oak cakes as gifts, along with a song, for the tree spirits at Samhain. For Yule Tide it gives suggestions on use of Holly, Chamomile, Frankincense, and other yule herbs. And it does the same for Imbolc, The Spring, Summer and Fall equinoxes, Beltane, Lammas. Medicinal uses are also included. After that, there is a section on herbs and their uses. And then a section on the herbs associated with The Sun, Mercury, and the rest of the celestial astrology and how to use them, and ritual ideas for them as well. Following that is a section of use of herbs in rituals for cleansing, gifting to spirits, groves and circles etc. There are also sections on life tides of death, marriage/handfasting, childbirth and more. Throughout the book there is information about the druids and their traditions. At the back there are appendixes for pronunciation, herb index so you can find the specific herb you are looking for, and suggested further reading. There is also a listing of resources from which you can find supplies. All in all a thorough reference and guide to using herbs in ritual. There aren't any of the colorful pictures common in most herbal references specifically for medicinal herbs, and I still think you would need additional herbal books specifically about medicinal properties and preparation to learn to identify plants and how to prepare them (Penelope Ody has some good ones). I think this is an excellent addition to any pagan herbalist's library.

Greetings! If you are looking for a book on herbal healing, this is not your book. If you are, however, looking for a book on the historical uses, as well as the spiritual connotations of the herbs that you use, this is the book for you. Herbs have become a big part of my rituals since I read this book several years ago. I kept it in my library, even when I was selling most of my other books so that I could continue to eat. I recommend it to anyone interested in Druidry, or herbal lore.

This is a wonderful and informative presentation of the Druidic beliefs organized around the

Calendar. The herbal lore provides the backbone of discussion, with practical guides to collecting and using the herbs. Great source of Celtic pronunciation and a delightful workbook or sourcebook.

Extremely helpful for those interested in learning about the magic properties of herbs. Historical, gorgeous illustrations and has wonderful information on the druids and their ancient society.

This is an excellent book for those who would consider themselves more than beginners in the study of practical herbal knowledge, esoteric herbal knowledge and herbal lore. The book contains in depth information on Druid celebration and the uses of Herbs therein, during the Druid Spiral of the Year. One gets a good sense of Druid spirituality and the inherent spirituality of our sisters, the Healing Plants. Information on Celtic cultural attitudes to do with the changing seasons gives a good indication of the depth of integration with Nature this culture and its Druids practiced. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Celtic spirituality and the intricate role Herbs, and Nature, held within that spirituality.

I've studied Native American herbal lore and wanted to study Celtic; this book came highly recommended by a friend, and I can see why. It's very good. In order to prevent excessive duplication, however, the author in many cases refers back to a previous section for a given herb (the various chapters give information organized according to time of year; numerous herbs overlap these sections). This is a logical and economical way to do things, but I find it awkward to be continually flipping back and forth. But this is the ONLY complaint I have about the book, and even so, I recognize that it's something about which many readers would NOT agree with me.

A good book to keep around on your shelf. Covers many herbs, uses, cultivation, and magical properties. I have enjoyed having this book around for the last year. People in my grove have also borrowed the copy, thought it was worth buying for themselves. Definitely, a great resource.

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