

Earth's Natural Rhythm Cycle
Wheel of the Year



Wheel of the Year Timings*

* Northern Hemisphere dates - reverse for Southern Hemisphere



Winter Solstice

Celebrated December 20-23. Also known as Yule.

Winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year. This midwinter festival is centered on the return of the sun from darkness. We also have the “newborn son” who is born at this time of year. This is the time of the rebirth of the light within.



Imbolc

Celebrated February 1 -2. Also known as Brigid's Day & Candlemas.

Imbolc marks the beginning of Spring, falling halfway between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. In the deepest cold winter, spring is born. Imbolc is a time of creativity, purification, and preparing for the growing cycle.



Spring Equinox

Celebrated March 21-22. Also known as Ostara or Eostar

Spring Equinox is the time of the child. The earth is reborn in the spring; all things are young, playful and new. Day and night are in equal balance and there is joy and rebirthing on the earth. This is a good time to add energy for the growing cycle.



Beltane

Celebrated May 1. Also known as May Day.

Beltane celebrates the joining of the God and Goddess, the masculine and feminine principles that fertilize creation. This is the time of year for working on the sacred marriage within us so we may walk in balance in the world.



Summer Solstice

Celebrated June 21-22. Also known as Midsummer.

Summer Solstice is the longest day and the shortest night of the year. Outdoor activities are great here with warmth, light, and growth as themes for this time of year. This is a potent time to celebrate abundance.



Lughnasad

Celebrated August 1 -2. Also known as Lammas.

Lughnasad represents the first of the three harvest festivals. Lammas means “loaf-mass,” and this point on the Wheel honors the way sacred grain is transformed into bread; the seed of the grain is planted, grows, ripens, then is harvested and ground into flour before the further transformation of baking.



Autumnal Equinox

Celebrated September 21-22. Also known as Mabon

Autumnal Equinox is the second harvest festival and preparation for the cooler, darker times ahead. Fall is the time to begin turning within, and like Spring Equinox, it's a time of equal day and night. Autumn brings the awareness of change and letting go.



Samhain (SAH-win)

Celebrated October 31. Also known as Halloween.

The Wheel of the Year ends and the energy goes within to prepare for the beginning of the next growing cycle. As one year passes and another begins, we honor both the death of the old and the birth of the New Year. The veil between the worlds of the living and the dead is believed to be the thinnest on this day.