

MEANING

- “The fires of Bel,” referring to the Celtic sun god, Belenus.
- Falls halfway between Ostara (the spring equinox) and Litha (the coming summer solstice).
- Traditional Celtic May Eve/May Day celebration and the opposite point on the cycle to Samhain.
- For many traditions, Beltane is strongly associated with fertility and highlights the power of life in its fullness, the greening of the world, youthfulness and flourishing.

WHEN

- April 30-May 1.
- About midway between the spring equinox and summer solstice in the northern hemisphere.
- Please note: Precise celebration dates can vary based on tradition and the related agricultural milestones of the local region. Celebrations may occur on the astrologically precise quarter and cross-quarter days, the nearest full or new moon, or the nearest weekend.



COMMON PRACTICES

- Maypole dancing and fertility rituals are commonly practiced, including the lighting of, dancing around, and, for some, jumping over bonfires.
- Celebrated by decorating houses and animals with May flowers, including primrose and gorse. Celebrators also commonly weave flowers into their hair or create floral wreaths to wear on their head.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Email: inclusion@msu.edu

Beltane

Celtic

[Bel·tayn](#)



- When appropriate, reasonable accommodations should be discussed in advance between students and instructors.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

provost.msu.edu

Type of Calendar:

Wheel of the Year
(solar)

