

Sacred Plants of Winter Solstice¹

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This was first published for a workshop at the 1994 Circle Sanctuary Community Yule Festival

Evergreens

symbolizing: Continuity of Life, Protection, Prosperity

types: Pine, Fir, Cedar, Juniper, other evergreens

forms: boughs, wreaths, garlands, trees

divinities: Green Goddesses & Gods; Hertha; Cybele, Attis, Dionysius (Pine); Woodland Spirits traditions: Roman, Celtic, Teutonic, Christian

Holly

symbolizing: Old Solar Year; Waning Sun; Protection; Good Luck

forms: boughs over portals, wreaths

divinities: Holly King; Old Nick; Saturn; Bacchus; Wood Spirits; Holly Boys

traditions: Roman, Celtic, English, Christian

Oak

symbolizing: New Solar Year; Waxing Sun; Endurance, Strength, Triumph, Protection, Good Luck

forms: Yule log, acorns, wood for sacred fires

divinities: Oak King; Oak Spirit; Sky Gods including Thor, Jupiter, Zeus

traditions: Teutonic, Celtic, Christian

Mistletoe

symbolizing: Peace, Prosperity, Healing, Wellness, Fertility, Rest, Protection

forms: boughs, amulet sprigs above doorways, kissing balls

divinities: Oak Spirit; Frigga and Balder

traditions: Celtic, Teutonic

Ivy

symbolizing: Fidelity, Protection, Healing, Marriage, Victory, Honor, Good Luck

forms: crowns, wreaths, garlands

divinities: Dionysius; Bacchus; Great Goddess; Ivy Girls

traditions: Greek, Roman, English, Christian

Frankincense

symbolizing: Sun, Purification, Consecration, Protection, Spiritual Illumination

forms: incense, oils

divinities: Sun Gods, Ra at Dawn, Bel

traditions: Babalyonian, Assyrian, Egyptian, Jewish, Greek, Roman, Christian

Myrrh

symbolizing: Healing, Death and Afterlife, Purification, Inner Peace

forms: incense, oils

divinities: Isis, Ra at Midday

traditions: Egyptian, Jewish, Christian

Wheat

symbolizing: Sustenance, Abundance, Fertility, Good Luck

forms: grain, straw figures and symbols, cookies, cakes, breads

divinities: Earth Goddesses; Saturn & Ops; Goat Spirit; Fairy Folk

traditions: Roman, Celtic, Scots, Teutonic, Sweedish, Christian

Celtic Tree Calendar's Sacred Trees of Winter Solstice

Yew: Last Day of Solar Year; Death.

Silver Fir: Winter Solstice Day; Birth.

Birch: Month following Winter Solstice; Beginnings.

¹ C:\My Documents\SCHOOLofLocalChurch\Lessons\33PaganHolidays\Articles\WinterSolsticePlants.doc