

THE SYMBOLS OF SAMHAIN

Samhain, (pronounced "SAH-win") the ancient festival marking the end of harvest and the onset of winter, is steeped in rich symbolism. Each element, from the carved pumpkins to the flickering candles, carries a unique meaning tied to this mystical celebration. Here are a few of the key symbols of Samhain:



Jack o' Lantern

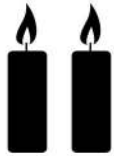
The Witches' New Year



Raven



Bonfire



Candles

The sacred bonfire illuminates the darkness between worlds, while casting protective light against lost spirits on Samhain, one of the Celtic fire festivals.



Black cat

Ravens and crows serve as sacred mediators between worlds, embodying ancient wisdom and prophecy while acting as messengers between the realms of the living and the dead.



Celtic spiral

The triskele or threefold spiral represents our journey through life, death, and rebirth.



Fallen leaf



Full Moon

The Hunter's moon casts her light upon leaves and ripe fruit, blessing the final harvest before the dark half of the year.

Black cats stand as eternal guardians of the veil between worlds, as their eyes perceive spirits and beings that mortals cannot see.

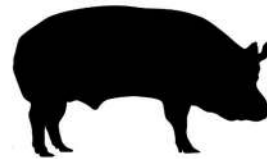


Scythe



Besom

Scythe and besom work as one during Samhain's night - the blade harvesting what must end while the broom cleanses the threshold for what awaits beyond the veil.



Tailless Black Sow



Owl

The owl, wise guardian of the night, watches over the thin veil between worlds, ever vigilant.



Cauldron

The Welsh *Muc Dubh*, a spectral mare, emerges at the veil of Samhain, her presence marking the space between this world and the next.



Spider



Mirror



Hourglass

The hourglass symbolizes the passage of time and transition between life and death.



Mandrake

Mandrake is a (toxic) magical plant, with powers linked to spells of protection and transformation.



Chrysanthemums

Chrysanthemums are traditionally seen as flowers of the dead, a symbol of honoring the departed.



Bat



Mementos

Ancestor mementos are used to pay tribute to lost loved ones, to keep their memory alive during Samhain rituals.



Skull



Key