

Birthstone Information

Birthstones tend to be a very personal choice, even to the point that people who don't like the colour of their true birthstone will find any excuse to claim another. You may notice that the colours of the modern and traditional birthstones tend to be the same, implying that (historically speaking) the traditional colour is the important consideration and blue topaz would not be an acceptable birthstone choice for November, only golden topaz. Also, blue sapphire is the traditional colour for September. Note that sapphires come in every colour of the rainbow (except hues of red, given the name ruby), as do tourmalines and even diamonds. Garnet, usually thought of as a red birthstone, actually is available in a variety of colours including orange, green, and even the lovely deep purple colour of grapes. Remember, however here at **Crystal Connection** we believe that there are no wrong birthstone choices. And we can take any stone and turn it into a unique, personal gift for you or any member of your family.

It would seem that the custom of wearing birthstones first became popular in Poland during the fifteenth or sixteenth century. And it is thought that each birthstone is worn in turn during its month, as the power of the stone is heightened at that time. This would seem to be an excuse for buying all twelve stones and rotating them.

Most scholars believe that the original tradition of birthstones arose from the breastplate of Aaron, a ceremonial garment set with gemstones to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. These were set in gold filigree and each stone was engraved with the name of the tribe. People of Jewish heritage may wish to select their birthstones based on tribal names. Paul E Desautels (1920-1991) the curator of minerals at the US National Museum of Natural History, author of the Gem Kingdom offered the following list which uses modern gemstone names.

RUEBEN	CARNELIAN
SIMEON	PERIDOT
LEVI	EMERALD
JUDAH	GARNET
ISSACHER	LAPIS LAZULI
ZEBULUN	ROCK CRYSTAL
JOSEPH	ZIRCON
BENJAMIN	AGATE
DAN	AMETHYST
NAPHTALI	CITRINE
GAD	ONYX
ASSHER	JASPER

The choice as always is with the customer. For a wide selection of tumbled gemstones, collector's minerals and birthstone jewellery visit www.crystalconnection.co.uk

AUGUST

MODERN BIRTHSTONE PERIDOT
ZODIAC FOR LEO ONYX

ANCIENT TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES



August
Peridot

HEBREW	CARNELIAN
ROMAN	CARNELIAN
ARABIC	SARDONYX
HINDU	RUBY
POLISH	SARDONIX



August
Peridot

Peridot is the traditional birthstone. Some of the properties Peridot is associated with are love, truth, faithfulness and loyalty. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties are fame, dignity, and protection. The healing properties are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the lungs, lymph, breast and sinuses. The Peridot is also used to enhance prosperity, growth, and openness.

Definition of Peridot, the August birth stone: The word Peridot is derived from the Greek word "faridat " which means "gem". The peridot (pronounced pear-a-doe) is a pale green variety of chrysolite and used as a gemstone. The crystal structure of the Peridot (magnesium iron silicate) is orthorhombic.

It is also often referred to as "poor man's emerald". It is known that Egyptian priests drank from cups made of peridot with the belief that it would draw them closer to Isis, the goddess of nature.

Olivine, which is actually not an official mineral, is composed of two minerals: fayalite and forsterite. Fayalite is the iron rich member and forsterite is the magnesium rich member. Olivine's formula is written as $(Mg, Fe)_2SiO_4$ to show the substitution of the magnesium and iron. Peridot is usually closer to forsterite than fayalite in composition although iron is the colouring agent for peridot. The best coloured peridot has an iron percentage of less than 15% and includes nickel and chromium as trace elements that may also contribute to the best peridot colour.

The word Sardonyx is derived from the Greek, Sard meaning "reddish brown," and onyx meaning "veined gem."

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