

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

MAY

MODERN BIRTHSTONE IS EMERALD
ZODIAC FOR TAURUS SAPPHIRE

ANCIENT TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES



May
Emerald

HEBREW	AGATE
ROMAN	AGATE
ARABIC	EMERALD
HINDU	EMERALD
POLISH	EMERALD



May
Emerald

Emerald is the traditional birthstone. Associated properties are- loyalty, faithfulness and friendship. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties are memory, clairvoyance and faith. The healing properties are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the eyes, fertility, the spine and headaches. The Emerald is also used to enhance mental capabilities.

Emerald is the birthstone for May and is known for being the 20th and 35th wedding anniversary gemstone. Many think wearing emerald brings you wisdom and growth. This is regularly given as a gift for an anniversary or as a sign of love and devotion.

At one point in time emeralds were prescribed for eye diseases because the exquisite colour of green was thought to be very soothing to the eyes. In actuality, early gemstone cutters kept emeralds at their working tables to look at as a way of giving their eyes a rest. Egyptians carved emeralds with the signs of spring flora to denote eternal youth and buried the stones with the deceased. The ancient Romans thought emeralds were associated with fertility and renewal.

The Incas worshiped these stunning emeralds. In the 1500's they were invaded by the Spanish Conquistadors who savagely stole their precious gemstones and even raided the mines. Now many of the world's greatest emeralds are lost on the floor of the ocean inside Spanish ships.

Emerald is made up of the Greek word smaragdus which means green stone. Emeralds can vary from a deep blue-green to green hues and some have are a yellowish green. If the colour is too yellow or blue then it loses its emerald title and becomes a different form of beryl.

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