

MEANING

- “Summer’s end.”
- First observed by Celtic Pagans, Samhain marked the Celtic New Year and the end of the harvest season.
- A harvest festival marking the return of winter and a thinning of the veil between this world and the next, allowing spirits of the dead to visit the living.
- Celebration of endings and beginnings. A time for remembering the dead.

WHEN

- Sunset October 31st to sunset November 1st.
- 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

- Time to celebrate the lives of those who have passed on, and often involves paying respect to ancestors, family members, elders, friends, pets and other loved ones who have passed away. Revering of elders is also observed.
- Common practices include dancing, feasting, communing with nature, often through nature walks and building altars to honor one’s ancestors.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Email: inclusion@msu.edu



Samhain

Gaelic

Saa·wn



- 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)

