

Birth Stones

Traditional birthstones

Often combined with modern birthstone lists, traditional birthstones are older society-based birthstones. Since many different cultures had their own list, jewellers' lists are often inconsistent over what constitutes a traditional birthstone. The table below contains many stones which are popular choices, often reflecting Polish tradition

The Gregorian calendar has poems matching each month with its birthstone. These are traditionally the stones in English-speaking societies. It is not known whether these verses below originally are of the Gregorian calendar or not. In fact Tiffany & Co. published these poems "of unknown author" for the first time in a pamphlet in 1870

By her who in this month (January) is born
No gem save garnets should be worn;
They will ensure her constancy,
True friendship, and fidelity.

The February-born shall find
Sincerity and peace of mind,
Freedom from passion and from care,
If they can amethyst will wear.

Who in this world of ours their eyes
In March first open shall be wise,
In days of peril firm and brave,
And wear a bloodstone to their grave.

She who from April dates her years,
Diamonds shall wear, lest bitter tears
For vain repentance flow; this stone,
Emblem of innocence, is known.

Who first beholds the light of day
In spring's sweet flowery month of May
And wears an emerald all her life
Shall be a loved and happy wife.

Who comes with summer to this earth,
And owes to June her hour of birth,
With ring of agate on her hand
Can health, wealth, and long life
command.

The glowing ruby shall adorn,
Those who in July are born;
Then they'll be exempt and free
From love's doubts and anxiety.

Wear a sardonyx or for thee,
No conjugal felicity;
The August-born without this stone,
'Tis said, must live unloved and lone.

A maiden born when September leaves
Are rustling in September's breeze,
A sapphire on her brow should bind
'Twill cure diseases of the mind.

October's child is born for woe,
And life's vicissitudes must know,
But lay an opal on her breast,
And hope will lull those woes to rest.

Who first comes to this world below
In drear November's fog and snow,
Should prize the topaz's amber hue,
Emblem of friends and lovers true.

If cold December gave you birth,
The month of snow and ice and mirth,
Place on your hand a turquoise blue;
Success will bless whate'er you do.

List of birthstones

By signs of zodiac

Early civilizations, such as those in India and Babylon, have attributed gemstones with magical properties. Over time, astrologers assigned gems of certain colours to the twelve signs of the zodiac to help people influence the planets in their favour.

| Sign | Dates | Stone |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Aquarius | January 21 - February 19 | Garnet |
| Pisces | February 20 - March 20 | Amethyst |
| Aries | March 21 - April 20 | Bloodstone |
| Taurus | April 21 - May 20 | Sapphire |
| Gemini | May 21 - June 21 | Agate |
| Cancer | June 22 - July 22 | Emerald |
| Leo | July 23 - August 23 | Onyx |
| Virgo | August 24 - September 23 | Carnelian |
| Libra | September 24 - October 23 | Peridot |
| Scorpio | October 24 - November 22 | Beryl |
| Sagittarius | November 23 - December 21 | Topaz |
| Capricorn | December 22 - January 20 | Ruby |

By culture of times

Modern birthstones

In 1912, in an effort to standardize birthstones, the organization Jewellers of America officially adopted a list, shown in the "Modern" column in the table below. It is currently the most widely used list in the United States and many other locations, including Australia and Thailand.

Mystical birthstones

Mystical Birthstones are of Tibetan origin and date back over a thousand years

Ayurvedic birthstones

The Ayurvedic birthstone list is from the ancient Indian medicine and philosophy dating back to ancient India (1500 BC)

| Month | Traditional Birthstone(s) | Modern Birthstone(s) | Mystical Birthstone | Ayurvedic Birthstone |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| January | Garnet | Garnet | Emerald | Garnet |
| February | Amethyst, Hyacinth, Pearl | Amethyst | Bloodstone | Amethyst |
| March | Bloodstone, Jasper | Aquamarine | Jade | Bloodstone |
| April | Diamond, Sapphire | Diamond | Opal | Diamond |
| May | Emerald, Agate | Emerald | Sapphire | Agate |
| June | Cat's Eye, Turquoise, Agate | Moonstone, Pearl | Moonstone | Pearl |
| July | Turquoise, Onyx | Ruby | Ruby | Ruby |
| August | Sardonyx, Carnelian, Moonstone, Topaz | Peridot | Diamond | Sapphire |
| September | Chrysolite | Sapphire | Agate | Moonstone |
| October | Opal, Aquamarine | Opal, Pink Tourmaline | Jasper | Opal |
| November | Topaz, Pearl | Topaz, Citrine | Pearl | Topaz |

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|----------|------------------|--|------|------|
| December | Bloodstone, Ruby | Turquoise, Zircon, Tanzanite, Blue Topaz | Onyx | Ruby |
|----------|------------------|--|------|------|

see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthstones> for more information and references

Rocks and Crystals