

Ask Rose Ariadne
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How Different Woods Effect Magick Wands

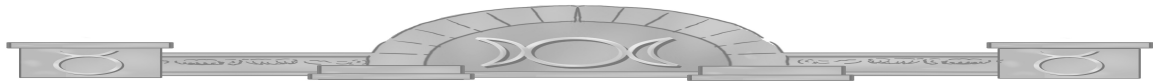
The wand is not an optional tool in Witchcraft. It is one of the must have tools. The reason for this is that the wand is used for two important functions during ritual, namely invocation and directing energy. When casting a circle, the witch uses invocation to call the quarters (North, East, South and West) and to invite the Goddess and God to be present at the rite. Additionally, when performing Magick, the energy that is raised during the ritual is collected in the wand and then directed to the 'item' to be charged with the spell's power and intent.

Wood, in most traditions, is the prescribed material out of which a wand should be fashioned. The type of wood from which the wand is made is also important as different types of woods bestow different powers on a wand. Here are some examples:

Apple – Love, healing and immortality
Ash – Protection, prosperity, health and the sea
Birch – Protection, banishing and purification
Cherry – Divination and love
Chestnut – Love, strength, money and healing
Elder – Prosperity, protection and banishing
Elm – Love
Hawthorn – Fertility and love
Maple – Love, money and longevity
Oak – All purpose (Many "standard" staffs are made from Oak or Rowan)
Poplar – Money, success and personal riches
Walnut – Health, mental powers and riches
Willow – Divination, love, protection and healing

As a result, witches end up with a large variety of different wands over time suited for the various spells that can be cast.





Let us dwell for a moment on two of these woods – the Elder and the Hawthorn - to explore their magickal aspects and how these can be influential during magickal rituals.

Elder

The Elder tree is one of the sacred trees of both Wicca/Witchcraft and Druidism. It is strongly associated with Litha (Summer Solstice) and the White Goddess. In the Wiccan Rede, Witches/ Wiccans are cautioned not to set fire to an Elder: "Elder be ye Lady's tree, burn it not or cursed ye'll be." Many Witches/Wiccans prefer not cutting a branch off the Elder to create a wand. They look for a fallen branch instead.

A Wand fashioned from Elder can be used to enhance the results of the following types of spells:

1. Protection and banishing

Its association with both Litha, which is the Summer Solstice, and the White Goddess, imbues the Elder with very strong protective powers. Because light rules over darkness during Litha, Elder is an excellent wood for banishing negativity. Use the wand both during circle casting and magick work when protection or banishment is required for highly positive results.

2. Prosperity

As strongly as the Elder dispels negativity, it attracts positive energy. The power of light afforded to Elder makes a wand fashioned from this wood highly effective in spells to attract Love, Luck and Prosperity.

Hawthorn

The Hawthorn Tree is associated with Beltane. Traditionally Beltane was celebrated on the first day the Hawthorne blossomed. At Beltane the Goddess and God consummate their love and as a result the Goddess falls pregnant. The Hawthorn is also believed to be under the direct protection of the Faerie Folk. As a result, it was frowned upon if a Hawthorn was cut and the belief was held that felling the tree would result in very bad luck. Witches / Wiccans consider the Hawthorn a sacred tree. A Wand fashioned from Hawthorne can be used to enhance the results of the following types of spells:

1. Love

Use a wand made from Hawthorn to make spells relating to love more potent. Remember that the Hawthorn requires some patience, so total concentration and focus will be necessary when casting spells using a Hawthorne Wand. To strengthen the spell, also use the wand to cast the circle.

2. Fertility

The Hawthorn wand can be used both for spells to cure infertility and to enhance fertility. When a spell is cast for the latter, the results may come surprisingly quickly. As with the love spells, state your intent clearly and focus completely. This wand is excellent for fertility type spells.





Each type of wood vibrates at a different level. The key to selecting the right wand with which to perform effective magick lies in choosing a wood which vibrates closest to the type of magickal outcome you wish to achieve. If in doubt, stick to oak. I have noticed that there are many wand makers nowadays who use an Oak wand, which is tinted to achieve the color of Ash or Elder or Maple. Whilst it is really pretty, those of you buying these wands have to bear in mind that the color of the wand has nothing to do with the actual vibration. A Maple colored Oak wand will vibrate as an Oak wand – nothing more, nothing less.

Wands need not cost much. A fallen branch can be fashioned into a beautiful wand with a little effort. Many Witches / Wiccans believe that an instrument of magick shaped by one's own hands have more power than one that is bought. So, perhaps that is something well worth considering.

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