



Floral Crowns



Flower crowns have been a part of European culture and spring celebrations for millennia. After a long, dark European winter, flowers indicate the return of the growing season and symbolize fertility and new beginnings. To this day, many regions in Europe use flowers, and floral wreaths, to celebrate May Day and Midsummer.

In **Sweden**, the garland is called *midsommarkrans*, traditionally made from wildflowers from the garden or nearby woods and worn for Midsummer celebrations by men and women.

Many **Italians** wear floral wreaths for graduation ceremonies instead of cap and tassels.



Aliaksei Staliarou, Wikipedia 27.06.2015.
Young women gather flowers to weave traditional wreaths during the Summer Solstice celebration according to Belarusian pagan tradition of Kupala Night in Village of Rakov, Minsk Region, Belarus.

According to Swedish tradition, if you *silently* pick 7 different kinds of wildflower and put them under your pillow, you will dream of your future spouse!

In **Poland**, wreathmakers set their crowns with candles to float down river in the belief that a sunk, swirling, or floating wreath can tell the future.



Photo: Ethan Doyle White. The crowning of the May Queen by the previous year's May Queen at Brentham Garden Suburb May Day 2019.

In the **U.K.**, on May 1, the May Queen wears a crown of flowers as she leads the May Day parade. People dance around a maypole, and the night ends with a bonfire.



Two guys in midsummer wreaths in a park.
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