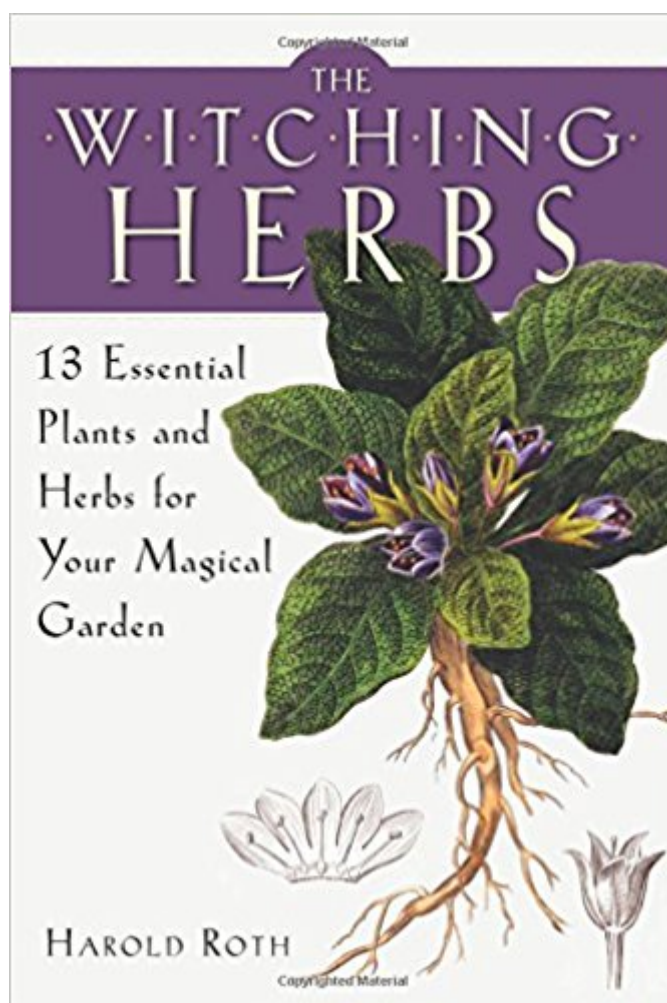


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# The Witching Herbs: 13 Essential Plants And Herbs For Your Magical Garden



## Synopsis

Harold Roth is a leading authority on plant/herbal magic. His new book, *The Witching Herbs*, is an in-depth exploration of 13 essential plants and herbs most closely associated with witchcraft •13 because it's the witching number and reflects the 13 months of the lunar calendar. The plants are poppy, clary sage, yarrow, rue, hyssop, vervain, mugwort, wormwood, datura, wild tobacco, henbane, belladonna, and mandrake. Roth writes simply and clearly on a vast amount of esoteric information that is not easily found elsewhere and will be greeted enthusiastically by those who already have extensive experience and libraries. It is unique in that it combines mysticism with practical instructions for growing each plant, based on Roth's 30 years of gardening expertise. Each chapter focuses on one plant and includes information on its unique plant spirit familiar, clear how-to instructions for magical projects, and pragmatic information on growing and cultivating. Roth writes, "This book is a great choice for intermediate-to-advanced witches who would like to work more closely with the traditional witching herbs, especially the baneful plants with their rather difficult spirits. Working directly with spirits is one of the fundamentals of the Craft." •The Witching Herbs is the essential plant-worker's guide. Roth is not only a successful gardener, but also a magician and scholar of the occult. No other book blends clear, practical gardening techniques with equally lucid and sophisticated plant magic so successfully.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Harold Roth's website [alchemy-works.com](http://alchemy-works.com) has been a constant companion and guide for me

over the years. What made me come back were not only the well-researched tables of planetary correspondences, but also the many interesting and neatly structured info articles spiced up with Harold's personal insights on the spiritual nature of magical herbs and incense ingredients and what could be done with them. When I research the magical properties of a plant or resin, Harold Roth is an author I rely on, as he provides substantiated and well informed advice, founded on decades of practical experience in Kabbalah, Hermeticism, alchemy, European witchcraft, Native American medicine, Afro-American folk-magical traditions, and, of course, gardening. What is truly unique about Harold is that his approach is literally rooted in the same ground that the plants grow on, as well as his ability to bring us closer to them, not only in word but also through beautifully done illustrations. And as if this would not be enough, we are given plenty of recipes to try by ourselves. To say that Harold's first book, *The Witching Herbs*, is highly anticipated is an understatement. Whether you are interested in the magical uses of herbs such as mandrake, poppy or clary sage, their medicinal properties, or simply the joy of gardening and growing your own green familiars, this book is a must-have."

—Wiebke Rost, herbalist and proprietor of Teufelskunst

"Harold Roth is an extraordinary man—wise, generous, and deeply entwined in the mysteries of the green world from first-hand experience growing, using, and loving plants. His work adds to our deeper understanding of our plant allies, fleshing out folklore and putting our traditions into deeper context. I've learned so much from him and know that with *The Witching Herbs*, you will too."

—Christopher Penczak, award-winning author and co-founder of the Temple of Witchcraft

"Harold Roth is a master of the witchcraft plants. His knowledge encompasses their magical, spiritual, and therapeutic aspects, their blessings and their banes. In *The Witching Herbs*, his long-awaited first book, Roth has crafted a brilliant guide to the witches' garden, teaching us how to grow and nurture its most prized plants, how best to access their gifts, navigate their dangers, and communicate with their plant spirit familiars. *The Witching Herbs* is a must for every witch's library."

—Judika Illes, author of *Encyclopedia of Witchcraft*, *Encyclopedia of 5000 Spells*, *The Big Book of Practical Spells*, and other books devoted to the magical arts

"A book that will take you far beyond the basics of magical herbalism. Much more than a compendium, it will teach you to open your eyes, ears, feelings, touch and sense of taste to any herb you may encounter, so that you may divine its magical use."

—Ellen Evert Hopman, author of *Secret Medicines from Your Garden: Plants for Healing, Spirituality, and Magic*, *A Druid's Herbal of Sacred Tree Medicine*, and other books devoted to herbalism and Celtic plant lore

"I grew up with books detailing hundreds of herbs and their magical uses. I would then go to the botanica or the occult store and buy bags of the herbs for my spells. Harold Roth's book, *The Witching Herbs*, is for anyone ready to put down the plastic

bags of dried herbs and go deep into the mystery and power of the whole plant. Rather than going wide with hundreds of herbs, he delves deep into 13 witching herbs and in so doing gives us not only a master's comprehension of these, but the tools to understand any other plant magic. This book is the best thing to happen to wortcunning this century." —Jason Miller, author of *Financial Sorcery* and *The Sorcerers Secrets*, and creator of The Strategic Sorcery Course

Connecting with plant spirits by growing magical plants yourself is the ultimate in herbal magic, according to this debut. Roth leans heavily on a modernized version of the ancient Doctrine of Signatures that teaches practitioners to look to a plant's morphology to understand its use, adding clues from growth patterns, traditional medicine, and chemistry as well as from traditional lore and personal gnosis. Though there are extended planting and care notes for every plant, Roth makes his picks according to their reputation in traditional European witchcraft rather than ease of cultivation. He includes several of the baneful herbs he calls the "Weird Sisters"—*datura*, *mandrake*, *belladonna*, and *henbane*—but, although some traditional recipes are included in the practice section, Roth never recommends consumption, stating that practitioners should pursue them through direct spiritual contact rather than by stepping onto the rickety bridge of alkaloid consumption. Sections on "practice" included in each entry add up to a primer in herbal magic methods, so readers learn how to make tinctures with clary sage, dry and powder herbs with yarrow, and unguents with vervain. Roth views the herb magician as spiritual seeker rather than rules-bound potion maker, an attitude that can be unfortunately rare in more encyclopedic botanical magic guidebooks." —Publishers Weekly (Mar. 2017)

"Harold Roth's *The Witching Herbs* offers an original perspective on the magical dimension of plants, rooted not in the repetition of occult texts but in the soil itself, as accessed by hands, head, and heart." —Daniel A. Schulke, author of *The Green Mysteries* and *Veneficium: Magic, Witchcraft and the Poison Path*

"At last! A guide to a subject very dear to my heart, and Harold Roth is just the man for the job. Added bonus: several of the most important plants from the correspondences of the Fifteen Behenian Stars. A must-have for goetic gardeners everywhere!" —Jake Stratton-Kent, editor of *Conjure Codex*, author of *The True Grimoire* (*Encyclopaedia Goetica* Book 1), and other books of power

In *The Witching Herbs*, Harold Roth has approached the plant as book and narrative; seeing the plant itself as the author of its own mystery; a mystery only grasped in fullness by the direct interaction with the plant, where it is nurtured from seed to adulthood and in the process turns into a teaching spirit. Roth roots his work in the doctrine of signatures, mediated by the patient dedication to the plant itself, and, in this, he has manifested a work softly born by the whispers of the 13 plants themselves, flanked with folklore, myths, and the frustrating and rewarding poetry of practice. It is a book easy to recommend, a

delight to read, a book that deserves a place not only on the bookshelf, but as a companion in the garden of witching herbs." •Nicholaj de Mattos Frisvold, author of *Craft of the Untamed*, *Palo Mayombe: The Garden of Blood and Bones*, and *Exu and the Quimbanda of Night and Fire*

Harold Roth is among the foremost authorities on plants within the modern occult community. For the past 15 years, he has owned and operated Alchemy Works, an online store focused on herb magic, where he crafts and sells incense, potions, and magical oils. *The Witching Herbs* has been in the works for a decade and is eagerly anticipated. Visit him at [www.haroldroth.com](http://www.haroldroth.com).

For those that follow a more green path of herbalism and gardening Harold Roth's website, Alchemy Works has been an unbounded resource for working with the classical herbs in a more practical way. Rather than just posting up a blend or a product Mr. Roth has taken the time and care to lay out practical growing and using lore garnered from his own experiences. Reading both his site and blog over the years has been a treasure trove of information for the classical witch. Now the book that has for so long been promised has come out and a wonderful tome it is. Any work on herbs that starts you with a practical analysis of the Doctrine of Signatures is just bound for great things, and this book does not disappoint. Rather than just being a long list of ever herb ever used and the traditional associations of it the author has taken a scant 13 to allow you to get to know them and truly work with them. Each herb gets its own sizable chapter broken out into three sections: Lore, Practice, and In the Garden. I would recommend reading the book from start to finish just because there is much information on types of plants and how to use and grow them that will cross over from chapter to chapter. My copy is less than 48 hours old and I already am doing some heavy highlighting in it to aid me in this spring's planting. Truly a book practical knowledge that you will not find anywhere else.

This is a wonderful addition to my witchy library. I enjoyed the authors perspective on herbal correspondences.

An in-depth look at 13 USEFUL plants that don't often get a lot of love from the non-magical gardening community. Love it for the combination of Lore AND cultivation information all in one place!

Loved this book - full of very practical advice about growing, using and understanding some very

powerful plants. So many ideas and so much lore makes it a page turner! If you are interested in growing traditional witchcraft-related herbs, start here. Some very wise advice about baneful herb growing and use as well.

A rare gem of herbal wisdom. Harold Roth is a personal friend of mine on Facebook. He's not only an amazing author and witch, but an amazing painter.

This is a wonderful book full of amazing information

very interesting and in depth, very glad I have this book.

Great book. Lots of information on traditional witchcraft herbs seldom used in today's fluffy bunny Wicca. I'm very old school so this is right up my alley. I've been gardening forever so I'm very familiar with most of the plants in this book, but for someone who is not; this is an EXCELLENT resource. I really enjoyed the chapters on mandrake, datura and belladonna. This goes into detail about the listed plants botany, pharmacology, history, magical and practical use. If you're not into today's goody-goody light and airy crap that passes as witchcraft today, this is a book for you. It's the real deal and will help you understand these often misunderstood plants. It belongs on every trad's' bookshelf. Good job!

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