

## **Cultivate Your Magical Knowledge**

Nature has provided a veritable magical pantry in the plants which grow all over our planet. Since ancient times these plants have been used in magic—the practice of causing change by natural (albeit little-understood) powers.

Though the medicinal properties of plants are fairly well-known—many of the most widely prescribed drugs are synthesized versions of substances originally derived from plants—their occult powers are less accessible. Much of their magic still lies in the shadow of secrecy.

Our ancestors knew that plants had mysterious, magical powers. Although the magic in herbs has been forgotten by many, it has never disappeared. Return to the days when nature spirits dwelled in sacred groves and fairies danced in flower gardens. Inside this book you'll find magical uses for hundreds of plants:

- String a garland of marigolds above your door to keep evil from entering your home.
- Bury vervain around your house and in your house plants—wealth will flow and the plants will thrive.
- Carry a bag of orris root to attract love.
- Drink rosebud tea before bed to induce prophetic dreams.

*Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Magical Herbs* is a treasury of herb wisdom and lore from the Old and New Worlds. This comprehensive guidebook has all the information you need to practice magical herbalism. Tap into the power of plants and watch your magic blossom!

## **About the Author**

Scott Cunningham practiced elemental magic for over twenty years. He was the author of more than thirty books, both fiction and non-fiction, the majority of them published by Llewellyn Publications. Scott's books reflect a broad range of interests within the New Age sphere, where he was highly regarded. He passed from this life on March 28, 1993, after a long illness.

**CUNNINGHAM'S**  
**ENCYCLOPEDIA**  
**OF MAGICAL**  
**HERBS**

**SCOTT CUNNINGHAM**

Llewellyn Publications  
Woodbury, Minnesota

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# **Dedication**

For Mom and Dad

## **Other Books by Scott Cunningham**

*The Complete Book of Incense, Oils, and Brews*

*Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Crystal, Gem & Metal Magic*

*Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Wicca in the Kitchen*

*Divination for Beginners*

*Dreaming the Divine*

*Earth, Air, Fire & Water*

*Earth Power*

*Hawaiian Magic & Spirituality*

*Living Wicca*

*Magical Aromatherapy*

*Magical Herbalism*

*Truth about Herb Magic*

*Truth about Witchcraft*

*The Truth about Witchcraft Today*

*Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner*

## **Books with David Harrington**

*The Magical Household*

*Spell Crafts*

## **Videos by Scott Cunningham**

*Herb Magic*

## **Biography**

*Whispers of the Moon* by David Harrington & de Traci Regula

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# Preface

I was a young man when I began to write what was eventually to become *Magical Herbalism*. Frustrated at the lack of information concerning herb magic and at the surfeit of interest in my teachers and fellow occult students I set out to investigate this nearly lost art.

This search took me through worlds and experiences of which I had scarcely dreamt. Nights spent reading ancient books and manuscripts while sipping herbal teas led to practical application; I collected herbs by moonlight and brewed up spells on deserted beaches. Slowly the pieces fell into my hands. At last I gathered up the threads of the ancient ways and, from them, wove a system of herb magic.

The more I experienced herb magic the more I realized its true powers. It may well be the most ancient and yet the most practical form of magic, for its tools grow all around us, even in the concrete-laden cities in which so many of us live.

After witnessing the power of herbs I decided to write a book explaining these lost ways. Thus, *Magical Herbalism* was born. Five years and several drafts later it was published.

During this process my research into and work with herb magic hadn't halted. Most of what I was learning could not be incorporated into *Magical Herbalism*, and so I decided that it had to wait for a later book. My early work was almost solely concerned with Old World plants, and this is reflected in *Magical Herbalism*. In recent years I have investigated the magical uses of plants of North and South America, the Near East, the Far East and Polynesia. (Some of these Polynesian plants have been included in this work, but the majority must wait for a future book on Hawaiian magic: *Hawaiian Magic & Spirituality*, Llewellyn, 1994.)

With the amount of new information I had uncovered I soon realized that the second herbal would be a veritable encyclopedia of herb magic. Hence, this book.

The present work is not a guide to herb magic, only minimal information is given in these pages concerning it. That ground is covered in *Magical Herbalism*. Do you wish to attract a lover? Carry a bag of rose petals or an

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orris root. Want to stop a toothache? Chew an elder twig and drive it into a wall. This is the type of magic that abounds in these pages—quick, uncomplicated, non-ritualistic. All-purpose spells are presented in the first section of the book for use where needed.

While most of the magic presented here deals with everyday problems, more complex subjects are also broached in the text—invisibility, materialization of spirits, attaining immortality and so on. Such information is presented because it is traditional, interesting, and romantic, not necessarily for its practical application. Similarly, the references to guarding against sea serpent bites and causing fairies to appear are included because such information fires the imagination, a necessity for effective magic.

This is not a book of quaintly impossible spells; it is an infinitely practical collection of herb magic which anyone can put to use.

I have limited myself strictly to the magical uses of herbs in this book; no medicinal information is presented here because there are a wealth of reliable guides available in this area. I have also bypassed the mythological and historical backgrounds of most of the plants except where relevant.

Those who seek destructive magic within these pages will be disappointed; none exists here, for such magic leads to its user's destruction.

A work of this type can never be completed; more secrets lie in waiting for discovery. It is the author's responsibility to decide when to stop nurturing and send a book out into the world to find its legs. I do so now, with the hope that it will stimulate others toward discovering and using the secrets of herb magic.