

Hallowe'en at Summerhill Farm Photos by Bostwick



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The first ceremony of Hallowe'en is, pulling each a "stock" or plant of cabbage. They must go out, hand in hand, with eyes shut, and pull the first they meet with; its being big or little, straight or crooked, is prophetic of the size and shape of the grand object of all their spells—the husband or wife. If any "yard" is pulled to the root, that is "tocher" or fortune; and the taste of the "custoc," that is, the heart of the stems, is indicative of the natural temper and disposition.

Steal out, unperceived, and sow a handful of hemp-seed, harrowing it with anything you can conveniently draw after you. Repeat, now and then, "Hemp-seed I sow thee, hemp-seed I sow thee; and him (or her) that is to be my true love, come after me and pou thee." Look over your left shoulder, and you will see the appearance of the person invoked, in the attitude of pulling hemp. Some traditions say, "Come after me and shaw thee," that is, show thyself; in which case it simply appears. Others omit the harrowing, and say, "Come after me and harrow thee."



Take a candle and go alone to a looking glass; eat an apple, before it, and, some traditions say, you should comb your hair all the time; the face of your conjugal companion, to be, will be seen in the glass, as if peeping over your shoulder.



Lastly, the stems, or, to give them proper appellations, the "runts," are placed somewhere above the head of the door, and the Christian names of people whom chance brings into the house are, according to the priority of placing the "runts," the names in question.