

Growing Orchard Communities

COMMUNITY ORCHARD TOOLKIT



Apple love charms and spells

Myth and legend the world over regards the apple as symbolic of giving of love and of the goddesses of love. Maybe because of this it has many associations with love charms or spells – usually to assist young maidens with finding their true love!



These could be used as games or activities during some of your orchard events just for fun, but with the root of the activity in a traditional context.

Forecasting love

- ♥ At Halloween, or 'Allen day', in St. Ives, an extra large 'Allen' Apple would be given to older girls to put under their pillows – this would make them dream of their sweethearts.
- ♥ Girls would try to peel the apple in one long strip, or as long as they could. This was then thrown over the left shoulder, with the right hand. When it landed on the floor, it would show the initial of their potential husband.
- ♥ In Cornwall, the pip was flicked into the air whilst chanting "North, south east or west. Tell me where my love doth rest." Where it landed indicated the direction of their home. There was a similar rhyme in Lancashire – A pip was squeezed between the finger and thumb whilst turning in a circle, saying "Pippin, pippin paradise, tell me where my true love lies. East, west, north or south. Pilling, Brig or Cockermouth." When the pip flew out, it was in the supposed direction of the lover's residence.



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Will we marry?

- ♥ To find out who you are going to marry, take an apple and hold onto the stalk. Turn the apple, going through the alphabet, one letter for each turn. When the stalk breaks off, this gives the initial of their first name. Then take the stalk and try to stab it into the skin, giving a letter for each stab. When it breaks through, this is the initial of the surname.
- ♥ Cut the apple in half and count the pips. If there is an even number, you will marry, if it is uneven you will not. If one pip is cut, the marriage will be stormy, if two are cut, it won't last.



Choosing between lovers

- ♥ A girl unable to choose between two lovers should take two pips from the middle of an apple, name them for each lover, and stick one to each cheek. Then repeating "Pippin, pippin I stick thee there, thou that is true thou mayst declare." (translation - Pippin pippin I stick you there, my true love's name you must declare) The pip which stayed on their cheek the longest would be the most faithful lover.

Friendship and Fidelity

- ♥ In Dorset, girls would put a pip on the fire. They believed if it burned with heat, they were assured of affection. If it burned silently, their lover was false.
- ♥ Whilst the pip was burning in the fire, they chanted "if you love me pop and fly, if you hate me lay and die."
- ♥ If you share an apple with a friend, it is said to guarantee to aid companionship.

