

# IVAN KUPALA

## *Ferns, Flowers, and Fertility*

Ivan Kupala is a North Slavic summer solstice festival celebrating fertility, harvest, and the natural world.

Plants play a significant role in the celebration of Ivan Kupala- namely, flowers and ferns.

These plants are symbolic of fertility, prosperity, and abundance.

### *Flowers*



### *Ferns*



Flowers are worn in flower crowns along with herbs. At sunset, women float their crowns down bodies of water. The fate of the flower crown is divined to reflect the fate of the lady- especially in terms of love



- Ferns are used in wreaths, placed under pillows, and used in divination to learn of one's true love.
- At midnight on the eve of Ivan Kupala, it is custom to search in the forests for the fern flower, which is said to only bloom at that time. If found, the fern flower brings wealth and power.