

karats



Peridot is August stone

In America, the recognized birthstone for August is the Peridot (the "t" is silent). It is a lovely and unusual stone, ranging in color from pale yellow to oily yellowish-green, to a deep bottle green, its color has earned it the nickname "evening emerald", though the price of peridot is much more easily affordable than its namesake.

It ranks a 6 ½ to 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness; so if worn everyday, it is best worn in a way that best protects it from abrasion.

This is a stone for those who prefer to not invest in foreign imports – some of the finest stones are native to Arizona. Other sources of peridot are South America, Burma, and Pakistan.

Folklore has it that the Egyptians discovered the lovely green stones on a remote island. They guarded this source so carefully that those outsiders that stepped foot on the island paid with their life.

The ancients believed the peridot to be a stone of divine inspiration, eloquence, and foresight. It was also a powerful amulet against evil and witchcraft. Pliny, the elder, hailed it as a cure for sinus problems. If used in the making of a chalice, it was believed to intensify the effect of the medicines drunk from it. The ancients also believed the power of the peridot was greatest if pierced and hung from the hair of an ass, if, however, a gold setting is more to the readers taste, this method protects the wearer from the terrors at night.

Peridot is a gemstone that flatters the fair-haired. It is complimentary as well, to those with a pink complexion.

The peridot is a very good gemstone value, as nice stones are quite affordable. It looks well set in white and yellow gold, or platinum and the variations in color offer good design potential.