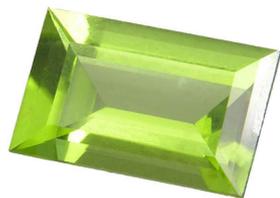


The birthstone for August is the green gemstone peridot. This beautiful bright stone sets itself apart because of its vibrant unique green colour.

## Romancing the stone - Peridot

by Sally Thornton

### Things to know about Peridot



Loose Peridot

**1.** Peridot is the rarer transparent gemstone variety of the mineral olivine. Discovered in volcanic areas, it acquired its name from the rock from which it is found, namely peridotite.

**2.** They are always green and are indeed one of the few gemstones that occur in a single colour. The most sought after stones are a rich 'oily' green, although they are found in shades ranging from golden green to brownish green. The shade and depth of the green colour is determined by the proportion of iron within the stone.

**3.** The Red Sea island of Zebirget (St John's Island) was the source of the finest dark green peridot which were used by the ancient Mediterranean civilisations. The ancients called this island Topazios and confusingly named the green gem topaz!

**4.** Today the gemstone can be found around the world, including China and Pakistan and Arizona. Interestingly in Arizona, rounded pebbles of peridot are found in anthills, collected by the industrious ants!



9ct yellow gold pear shaped peridot pendant on necklace £92



9ct yellow gold pear shaped peridot stud earrings £98



9ct yellow gold peridot & diamond necklace £365



9ct yellow gold peridot & diamond pendant on necklace £322



9ct gold peridot & diamond cluster stud earrings £185



9ct yellow gold peridot & diamond cluster ring £225

9ct yellow gold peridot & diamond cluster pendant on necklace £125



**5.** Peridot is a comparatively hard stone being 6.5 on the Mohs scale (7 being the ideal hardness for jewellery). So although it is relatively durable, it is susceptible to scratches.

*We are always buying in loose gemstones to incorporate into various designs. We have in stock this lovely emerald cut peridot which is pictured and are now thinking what we should do with it. Should we incorporate it into a ring or perhaps a pendant? So check out our website or follow us on Instagram where we will show our designs as we progress towards the finished piece.*

**6.** Due to its excellent transparency peridot it is often faceted, which in turn makes it ideal to use for design in jewellery. These faceted stones, which can come in a variety of shapes, are used in rings, pendants, earrings and much more.

**7.** Not all stones however are faceted and the tumbled gems can be found set in baroque jewellery, drilled and strung as beads.

**8.** Peridot was beloved by the Victorians, who produced delicate yellow gold open work design pendants into which they set this beautiful green stone often accompanied by half pearls

**9.** Some of our designers are drawing inspiration from these Victorian styles producing lovely delicate reproduction pieces. I just love the pendant shown here.

**10.** If you are, however, looking for a genuine period piece keep a look out in our pre loved display and if you see something you like don't hesitate too long because when its gone its gone.

9ct yellow gold reproduction open work peridot & seed pearl pendant on necklace £250



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