

## The Birthstones of June

Every month has an assigned birthstone or stones. They are said to originate from a breastplate of Aaron representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Some months also have more than one. In this article, we will be exploring the birthstones of June.

### How Many Birthstones of June Are There?

June is one of three months to have three birthstones. The most common is the pearl, followed by alexandrite and moonstone. The reasoning behind June having three stones is that the rarity of the gems over the years has increased.

#### The Pearl

Pearls originate from either fresh or saltwater mollusks, such as oysters or mussels. They form when the mollusk secretes a substance called nacre around an irritant that has entered the shell, usually a grain of sand or a parasite. There are man-made pearls using the same process but in a farm setting. Years of fishing for pearls has destroyed the natural pearl beds, so cultured pearls make up most of sales today. They can come in all shapes, sizes, and colors.

Pearls have a variety of meanings, the most common being innocence and purity. It is said this June birthstone means “sweet simplicity.” Pearls are commonly gifted for weddings as they also mean long life and prosperity. In Asia, pearls were used as a holistic medicine to help treat indigestion. Some Arab doctors believe pearls aid in the treatment of depression and anxiety.

A natural pearl will have a milky white hue that is reflective with a healthy sheen. Most cultured pearls have the ability to be dyed in a range of colors.

On the scale of hardness, known as the Mohs scale, the pearl scores a 3, making it rather soft. Do not store it with other jewelry as they can scratch the pearl. Also never store them in plastic, as it can emit a chemical that can damage the pearl’s surface. Use a soft, damp cloth for cleaning.

#### All About Alexandrite

Alexandrite originates from the Ural Mountains in Russia. The stone is the rarest variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. It was first discovered in 1830 and is named after Alexander II, heir to the throne at the time. The Russians were in awe of the stone as it possessed color-changing properties and reflected green and red hues similar to the military colors at the time. It is said to bring luck and good fortune. The Ural Mountains have since been mined out and most alexandrite comes from Brazil and East Africa.

Alexandrite was known for its color-changing properties, ranging from blue-greens to purplish reds. The Russian-origin stone was very vibrant whereas the stones harvested today from Brazil are not as high quality. Some of the prominent color-changing alexandrite can still be found but is much rarer and the cost reflects.

The stone scores an 8.5 on the Mohs scale making it a rather durable gem. You can clean with warm, soapy water or an ultrasonic or steam cleaner as well.

#### Moonstone

Moonstone comes from the mineral adularia, named for an early mining site near Mt. Adular in Switzerland. It also gave name to the term adularescence, which refers to the stone’s milky glow,

referring to moonlight floating on water. It is also said the stone's appearance shifts with the changes of the moon. Moonstone is also associated with Roman, Greek, and Hindu mythology. The meaning behind the stone is love and fertility and is also said to bring good luck. Today, moonstone is mostly found in Australia, Madagascar, and the United States. The most sought-after moonstone is in Sri Lanka and is transparent with a blue shimmer. The mines have been mostly cleaned out making this stone very valuable.

Moonstone gained popularity in the Art Nouveau era in the 1890s but faded in the early 1900s. It re-emerged in the 1960s during the "flower child" movement and then again in the 1990s as new designers began using the stone.

The stone is a 6 on the Mohs scale and is not a tough stone. Moonstone cracks at high heat and can be damaged when struck. To clean the moonstone, use care and warm, soapy water.

### [Choose the Stone for You](#)

The month of June gives many options for birthstones. From the dazzling moonstone to the classic pearl, and the ever-enchanting alexandrite. Each has its own unique qualities that are sure to wow anyone with any piece they belong to.