The Samhain *Carved Turnip Head-***Boo!**

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| The carved turnip head is essential for the creation   of a proper Celtic atmosphere for Samhain-Halloween   -October 31. Now I do hope you did first things first and made a Parshal to put on your door to keep the evil spirits away. If not, then best [go make one here!](http://cbladey.com/parshal.html) The turnip is not a turnip at all (well,that is,for Americans!) We call them rutabagas (Swedes after the proper name: Swedish Turnip for those of the British Isles!) .  Once they are carved and lit up with a candle they glow with an eerie yellow-ivory -you might say skull like  quality! When they are suspended they look just like skulls floating in the night! Their shape is much more scull like than  any pumpkin could ever be! (The ancient Celts had no Pumpkins!)  Once you have this ready find out what else you need to do to get ready for Samhain.  [Go here.](http://cbladey.com/irish/HomePage.season.html#samhain)  Materials:   1.large rutabaga (turnip or Swede). I try to  find one with the proper scull shape-(slightly tapered toward the chin) the larger the better.   2.One sharp knife and teaspoon.   3.Newspaper   4.Container for the turnip shavings.   5.Candle   6. Sturdy wire- about 12 inches      Instructions:   1 .Cut the top off the turnip- not too far down.   2. Using the knife carve out a hole into the top of the        turnip. Once there is enough room use the teaspoon        to hollow out the turnip so that the turnip is          translucent- that is when you hold it up to the light        you can see it glow.   3.Using a sharp knife carve a Celtic face into the turnip       shell. Remember! this is not a pumpkin so no pumpkin        gap tooth smile select a good Celtic face!   4.Flatten ot the inside of the  base making a slight       depression  to hold the candle.   5.Light candle and drip wax into depression in the       center. Stick candle upright in the wax.   6.Pierce a hole in each side of the top of the turnip      Insert the wire for a handle.   7.Use the resulting grated turnip for dinner! Very Healthy       Actually......You can even squeeze it and make        turnip juice!  Now you are ready to bring the Celtic Spirit   to your celebrations and hauntings-   A line of people with lit turnip heads walking up a field at night is quite scary!  Now all you  need are some good Irish Stories to go with it! | http://cbladey.com/rudi.gif    1. Find a big one!        http://cbladey.com/rudi2.gif 2.Flatten its head!  And scoop it out!                   3.You must have a good  Celtic Face  Try This one!     http://cbladey.com/rudi3.gif Be Sure to cut out the Eyes!  and put on the handle!  (Just don't let this face be   Yours after eating turnips-  they are good for you!) |  |