

JANET & COLIN BORD

EARTH RITES

FERTILITY PRACTICES IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL BRITAIN



PALADIN

Contents

	<i>About this book</i>	xv
1	The great Earth Mother	1
	The archaeological evidence for fertility cults	17
3	Fertility in folklore	31
4	The shapes of standing stones	49
5	Church carvings: sexual themes, green men and dragons	69
	Holy wells and sacred trees	93
7	The agricultural cycle: preparing the ground	115
8	The agricultural cycle: from seed-time to harvest	135
9	The ritual sacrifice of the divine victim	157
10	Traditional customs with fertility overtones: banishing winter and welcoming spring	173
11	Traditional customs with fertility overtones: water, sun, horses, horns, and she-males	193
12	Earth energies and the maintenance of fertility	219
	<i>Bibliography</i>	241
	<i>Notes</i>	242
	<i>Index</i>	263