

Quick overview :

The Dustblooms, or Dustbloom druids, are a newly founded tradition among the Vulperas as a reaction to the wish to rejuvenate Vol'dun from its desertic state into the jungle that legends tell it once was.

Unlike other druidic paths though, the Dustbloom Circle does not revolve around thriving in large forests or embracing the shapes of the beasts of wild, but more around embracing the natural flows of nature, the endurance of the desert, the boons of the cosmos, and the miracles born from barren lands returned to life. As such, their sources of power and belief lie mostly within the stars and the moon, considering them as silent watchers and guides over the seeds waiting to awaken from under the sands.

In essence, Dustbloom druids see themselves more as a living bridge between scarcity and abundance, embodying the ability for life to be swelling from humble if not unfavourable beginnings, just like a desert flower.

Lore origins :

The tradition of the Dustbloom is still a recent tradition among the Vulperas, having sprouted after the desert-dwellers managed to find their way outside of Vol'dun following the fall of the Sethrak Empire. With their closest stop in the jungles of Zuldazar, they found themselves meeting with the Zandalari Lun'alai, taking to their teachings and their beliefs in their moon matron before reshaping them into a path that fit more the Vulpera spirit of endurance. Rather than casting their lot with the resident Loas to embrace wild shapes or delving into rituals best suited for lush environments, the Dustbloom druids focus on the natural phenomenons of their homeland of Vol'dun to guide the flow of their magic : Flow like the shifting sands, look to the skies where the stars light your way, and embrace the unerring resilience of the desert fauna and flora.

The name Dustbloom itself comes from a rare phenomena during which, after periods of long droughts, when rain finally graces the sands with its touch, oases will awaken and sprout seas of flowers overnight, changing the barren landscape into one of hope and beauty ; Countless flowery stars fallen from the heavens.

For the Dustbloom druids, this phenomenon is a symbol of patience, hidden potential, and the ability for life to thrive in even the harshest places.

Beliefs and Creed :

“Even in the driest desert does the seed of life wait. It is our duty to keep it safe, nurture it, and let bloom under the moonlight”

This quote is a core philosophy of the Dustbloom druids, a deep sense of duty towards the inhospitable and barren places, and the ability to look past the absence of life to find the sparks that need just a little help to grow and swell. Failure is expected, patience is

mandatory, but the only great sin for a Dustbloom is to give up upon what could be if it only received the proper care.

Other strong tenets can be worded as such :

- *“The desert is our teacher”* - Harshness teaches resilience, scarcity teaches gratitude, emptiness teaches creation
- *“The stars are our guides”* - By peering at the sky, the Dustblooms have learned to create maps of the seasons, the chances of rain, and the migrations of animals
- *“Life is but a cycle, the dance of stillness and blooming”* - Just like the druids of the wider Azeroth embrace rest, so do the Dustbloom recognize the need for rest in order to grow even stronger later on ; Just like seeds sleep in wait for the nurturing rain

Abilities :

Though their druidic traditions differ from the wider understanding of Azerothian druids, forged by the isolation upon Zandalar and the peculiar approach of the Lun’alai from which they took inspiration, the Dustblooms remain druids through and through, holding powers over the cycles of nature and the forces that make Azeroth breathe.

Notably, shapeshifting is a very rare occurrence among the Dustbloom currently and tends to wield a more symbolic meaning than utilitarian. For the few who have embraced this path, the animal shapes they embrace are tightly tied with the desert - be they skittering lizards, agile hyenas, piercing buzzards, comfortable alpacas, etc...

Their magical prowess manifests itself similarly with desert-inspired casting.

They derive most of their spells from the stars and moon, in what they call **Starbloom Magic**, calling upon the soft glows of the night to infuse plants and water with the power to make life surge from the barren soil in the form of entangling dry briars, or empower the weary travelers in need of respite.

Rendered solid, the starlight may also be shaped into radiant shields that veil their charges. This magic is nonetheless not harmless, for the soft glow can be turned to searing radiance or turned solid in the shape of fallen meteors.

Just like Azerothian druids usually wield the wind in some form, the Dustblooms have taken to adding the gleaming sands to their arsenal in the form of **Dustweaving**. Raising dust devils to blind their opponents, swelling the sand into debilitating storms, or even creating mirages out of thin air, all of those are ways with which the Dustblooms use their abundant resources.

Cyclecraft is another important part of a Dustbloom’s magical prowess. This approach to natural magic focuses itself on the ability to hasten and slow the processes of nature. By borrowing from their own life force, or that of surrounding stronger fauna and flora, they can imbue seeds to sprout in a moment, make fruits ripen in an instant, or coax an oasis into refilling faster.

Oppositely, they can put the surrounding nature in a protective dormancy to shield it from a harsh season about to strike, preserving it for a safer time in which it may bloom.

Balance in all things, the Dustblooms always take in order to give, and give in order to take.

Organisation of the Circle :

The Dustbloom druids, due to their more isolated situation, have organized themselves into an informal order by which they describe their advancement in their approach to druidism. And due to the scattered nature of Dustbloom druids walking the world, every single one of them is able to operate on their own and without a strong hierarchy between them, holding each other to the same respect.

- **Seedbearers** are the most recent additions, initiates and apprentices who still are learning the ropes of druidism. They are usually assigned to check in with a more senior druid, if not traveling in their company, who acts as their teacher into star-reading, basic spells, and knowledge of nature.
- **Moonwardens** are full-on druids who have finished their apprenticeship and have proven their skills in Cyclecraft. It is customary for a new Moonwarden to create their own sandstone circle in a symbolic gesture of accomplishment, and to tend to it year after year with skills they develop and seeds they come upon.
- **Dustcallers** are the Dustblooms who focused their efforts more into the practice of Dustweaving, but are no slouch either in the other domains. They tend to be the stronger tempered members of the Dustbloom Circle, more prone to jump directly to the defence of nature rather than attempting gentle mediation and guidance.
- **Starbinders** are the druids most attuned to the celestial aspects of a Dustbloom's magical patchwork, often described as always having their head in the clouds as they scry the heavens for the patterns of the stars. They are often considered the most scholarly inclined members of the circle, with deep knowledge of the cycles of the area they currently reside in.
- The title of **Bloomkeeper** is the highest honour that can be received for a Dustbloom druid. While it only holds an honorific status, it signals one as being considered a visionary with the skills to help the philosophy of the Dustbloom evolve and expand, an informal leader of sorts to look for.

Traditions and Rituals :

- **Ritual of the Night Bloom** : Once every year, during the early summer, the Dustbloom Druids gather into a barren valley that was chosen by the Bloomkeepers. Under the moonlight, the attending druids scry the sky to plant blessed seeds under a specific star alignment said to herald the bloom of the vegetation under the first rain of the year.
- **Making of Sandstone Circles** : While most druids gather in groves, the Dustbloom druids instead signal their places of power and reverence by erecting rings of sandstone carved with constellations of their choosing, and adorned with vegetation seeded by the visiting druids.
- **Moonwater Brewing** : Under the full moon, a Dustbloom druid would prepare an infusion of spring water and desert herbs before infusing it with the celestial power of

both moon and star. The resulting brew is said to be blessed with both healing properties and more quenching than usual.

Oppositely, the brew can be made under the new moon to be turned into a bitter draught that can still the processes of life, putting the people who imbibe it, be it by drinking or splashing, into a dreamless sleeping stasis.

- **Star-Mapping** : On unclouded nights, it is customary for the Dustbloom druids to map the night sky and its constellations in order to read the weather, make sense of their navigation through the land, and some even say omens can be scried from the patterns.