

## ❀ Features of the Higo Chrysanthemum ❀

What makes it different from other chrysanthemum?

All petals are single petals

Colors:

White

Yellow

Red

The shape of the petals is distinctive!



Flat  
Small



Tube  
Medium



Spoon-like  
Large

Flower Size:

Diameter: 5-6cm

Height: ~45cm

8-10cm

~90cm

20-22cm

~135cm

## ❀ Flowerbed Cultivation is the Rule!

There are 3-ken, 2-ken, and even 5-ken flowerbeds!

\* 1-Ken: 1.8m

## ❀ How Many Subtypes Are There?

There are 90~100 varieties.

Flowerbeds are all arranged with different varieties!

29 varieties are grown in 3-ken flowerbeds 🍁

## ❀ History of the Higo Chrysanthemum ❀

The chrysanthemum is one of the flowers that has been loved in Japan since the old days.

1751~ Cultivation of Higo Chrysanthemum begins as a cultural

1764 policy by the feudal lord, Hosokawa Shigekata.

1819 Hideshima Shichiemon, a retainer of the Higo Domain, publishes a book about the cultivation methods of Higo Chrysanthemum.

**The method of flowerbed creation is established.**

1826~ "Hanaren" is created, allowing for improvement of

1860 current breeds and cultivation of new breeds.

1887 "Aiju-Kai" group is formed.

1929 "Aiju-Kai" group is reorganized.

Rules about sharing seedlings relax and membership expands.

The Higo Chrysanthemum takes a big hit from WWII but recovers its vigor postwar.

1972 The "Higo Chrysanthemum Preservation Society" is set within the Kumamoto City Tourism Section.

1975 "Higo Meika-en" is formed in Takeno-maru of Kumamoto Castle.

"Aiju-Kai" members have preserved cultivation and flowerbed creation! Seedlings are only shared with members.

# Higo Chrysanthemum

Blooms Mid-November Through Early December



## How to Appreciate Higo Chrysanthemum?

View them from the edge of the flowerbed at three times the distance of the height of the large flowers (in the back)!

Suisenji Jojuen 3-Ken Flowerbed

## ❀ Let's Enjoy Higo Chrysanthemums! 2023

**3-Ken Flowerbed** *Currently the only flowerbed open to the public now!*

**Suisenji Jojuen Higo Chrysanthemum Exhibition**

Nov.15 (Wed) - Nov. 26 (Sun) 9:00 - 16:30 **Flowerbed & Exhibition**

[Chrysanthemum Appreciation]

Hear commentary from an Aiju-Kai group member!

Nov.24 (Fri) / Nov. 25 (Sat) 11:00 - 12:00

**1-Ken Decoration**: Flower beds lined with potted flowers!

*Higo Chrysanthemums grown inside Kumamoto Castle!*

**Kumamoto Castle: Castle Towers Front Plaza,**

**Josaisen Wakuwakuza** Nov.15 (Wed) - Nov. 23 (Thu)

**Former Hosokawa Gyobu Residence**

Nov.17 (Fri) - during the special event

\*Exhibition time and day

is subject to change.

\*Please confirm details

with each venue.

**Kumamoto Shintoshin Plaza**

2nd Floor Nov.15 (Wed) - Nov. 23 (Thu)

**Izumi Shrine** Nov.15 (Wed) - Nov. 26 (Sun)

**Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo**

Nov.16 (Thu) - around the end of December

## ❀ The Complex Arrangement of the Flowers Represents the Nature of the Universe

Heaven/Earth/Human

Back Row → Large Flowers (Heaven)

Middle Row → Medium Flowers (Human)

Front Row → Small Flowers (Earth)

Order from right to left

Red(flat)/White(tube)/Yellow(flat)

Yellow(flat)/Red(tube)/White(flat)

Red(flat)/White(tube)/Yellow(flat)

**The Five Cardinal Confucian Virtues**

**(Benevolence, Righteousness, Wisdom, Propriety and Trustworthiness)**

Large and medium Higo Chrysanthemums typically have five flowers per seedling. \*7, 9, 11 flower seedlings are also possible

**Yin**: Middle flowers (in the back) are shorter than side flowers.

**Yang**: Middle flowers (in the back) are taller than side flowers.

## ❀ Flowerbed Cultivation is the Result of Self-Discipline!

The cultivators discipline themselves by making their own flowerbed throughout the year. **The flowerbeds reflect their dignities.**

Formal clothes (crested hakama) would be required when appreciating Higo Chrysanthemum in the past.

## ❀ Aiju-Kai ❀ Succession of Higo Chrysanthemum Flowerbed Cultivation and Preservation Methods

Those who love Higo Chrysanthemum:

**Now accepting applicants!**

[Activities] \*Only Members Allowed

April: Distribution of Seeds

June: Cultivation Technique Guidance

November: Flowerbeds Viewing Gathering

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## ❁ Flower Features ❁

Big center (the pistil)  
Single layer of petals  
Clear color

Let's see what makes each flower distinct!

## ❁ Carrying on the Tradition ❁

Strong traditionalists in Kumamoto known as "Higo Mokkos" have carefully preserved the methods of cultivation, formation and appreciation of potted plants, flowerbeds and bonsai.

What a profound craft!

## ❁ History of Higo Rokka ❁

Beginning in the 1700s, The 6th Hosokawa Lord of the Domain, **Hosokawa Shigekata (1720-1785)** encouraged samurai in Kumamoto Domain to grow to practice self-discipline.

In the 1800s, during the reign of 10<sup>th</sup>-generation Hosokawa Narimori (1804-1860), the samurai formed groups called 'Hanaren' to establish new varieties of flowers and set rules to grow them.

Taking flowers and seeds out of the group was prohibited!

In 1960, six of these special varieties of flower were selected throughout the seasons for an exhibition that would be held in presence of the Emperor.

These six types of flower have been collectively called 'Higo Rokka' ever since.

## ❁ Precious Treasures of Kumamoto ❁

The six unique kinds of flowers cultivated by the samurai of the Higo Domain



Higo Morning Glory



Higo Chrysanthemum



Higo Iris

# Higo Rokka

Vol.5, 2023  
Chrysanthemum  
Season



Higo Sasanqua



Higo Peony



Higo Camellia

## Let's learn about Higo Rokka!

This leaflet was created by  
Green Meisters of Kumamoto City  
Team てんとうむし(Ladybug)



We support preservation and cultivation of Higo Rokka!

Kumamoto City Team Tentomushi

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## ❁ Higo Rokka Blooming Calendar ❁

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		↔ From mid-February to the end of March									
		<b>Higo Camellia</b> ひごつばき									
		Can be found at the Zoological and botanical Gardens, Prefectural Athletic Park, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Country Park in Kumamoto and Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo									
		* Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden									
			↔ From late April through early May								
			<b>Higo Peony</b> ひごしやくやく								
			Can be found at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden in Kumamoto, Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo and Kyuhoji Ryokuchi Park in Osaka								
			* Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Tsukahara Museum								
				↔ From late May through mid-June							
				<b>Higo Iris</b> ひごはなしょうぶ							
				Can be found at Shohinken garden, the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden in Kumamoto and Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo							
				* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden							
					↔ From July to September						
					<b>Higo Morning Glory</b> ひごあさがお						
					* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Aspecta, Kumamoto Shintoshin Plaza, Koraimon Gate						
							↔ From mid-November through early December				
							<b>Higo Chrysanthemum</b> ひごぎく				
							Can be found at Suizenji Jojuen Garden				
							* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Kumamoto Shintoshin Plaza Former Residence of Hosokawa Gyobu, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo				
								↔ From November through December			
							<b>Higo Sasanqua</b> ひごさざんか				
							Can be found at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Prefectural Athletic Park in Kumamoto and Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo				
							* Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden				

## ❁ Higo Rokka are often used as designs in Kumamoto

A manhole cover with a Higo Camellia design→



## ❁ One of the Highlights of Kumamoto Flower Expo 2023

2023.10.28(Sat)-11.26(Sun)

Planned Exhibition "Higo Rokka" in Josaien Wakuwakuza is being held!