

## Center of the Flower!

Large center (the pistil)  
Single layer of petals Clear color  
Let's see what makes each  
flower distinct!

## Carrying on Tradition & Spirit!

The spirit of "Higo mokkosu" has preserved  
the methods of  
**cultivation,**  
**formation,**  
and **appreciation of**  
**Potted Plants, Flowerbeds, & Bonsai**  
The profound world of Higo Rokka!

## History of Higo Rokka

Beginning in the 1700s,  
The 6th Hosokawa Lord of the Kumamoto Domain,  
Hosokawa Shigekata (1720-1785) encouraged  
clansmen to practice horticulture as a form of self-  
discipline.

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

**Taking flowers, seedlings, or seeds out of  
the group was prohibited!**

In 1960, six flower varieties that could be enjoyed  
during all four seasons were selected for an exhibition  
held in the presence of the Emperor.

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

## Precious Treasures of Kumamoto

The six varieties of traditional flowers  
unique to Kumamoto cultivated by the  
Higo samurai during the Edo period



Higo Iris



July-  
Sept  
Higo  
Morning  
Glory



Higo Peony

Did you know?  
**Higo Rokka**  
Vol. 4, 2024  
**Higo Morning  
Glory**



Higo  
Chrysanthemum



Higo  
Camellia



Higo  
Sasanqua

## Let's See the Higo Rokka! Blooming Calendar

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
↔ From mid-February to April											
<b>Higo Camellia</b> ひごつばき											
Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Prefectural Athletic Park, Kumamoto Country Park, and Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo)											
*Exhibition at Zoological and Botanical Garden (early-March)											
↔ From late-April to early-May											
<b>Higo Peony</b> ひごしやくやく											
Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo), and Kyuhohji Ryokuchi Green Space (Osaka)											
*Exhibition at Tsukawara Museum, Suizenji Jojuen Garden											
↔ From late-May through mid-June											
<b>Higo Iris</b> ひごはなしょうぶ											
Shohinken Garden, Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, and Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo)											
*Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Josaien											
↔ From July to September											
<b>Higo Morning Glory</b> ひごあさがお											
*Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Kumamoto Castle, Koraimon Gate											
↔ From mid-November through early-December											
<b>Higo Chrysanthemum</b> ひごぎく											
Suizenji Jojuen Garden											
*Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo)											
↔ From November through December											
<b>Higo Sasanqua</b> ひごさざんか											
Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Prefectural Athletic Park in Kumamoto, and Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo)											
*Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden											

\*Exhibition dates and locations are subject to change or may be cancelled.

\*Entry to the Higo Meika-en (Flower Garden) at Kumamoto Castle's Takenomaru is prohibited post-Kumamoto Earthquake. The Rokka are observable at the exhibitions within the castle.

## Let's Learn More About Higo Rokka!

Created by Meisters of Greening in Kumamoto City Team

てんとうむし (Ladybug)



We support the preservation, inheritance, and development of the Higo Rokka!

Kumamoto City Team Tentomushi

Search



Used in a Variety  
of Designs Too!

Manhole: Higo Camellia  
(Kumamoto City  
Waterworks and Sewage Bureau)

## 🌸 Features of Higo Morning Glories 🌸

What's different from other morning glories?

### A big white center (funnel) and glossy petals

They grow to 10-15 cm in diameter, have 6-10 connected pleated petals, and their large center (funnel) is pure white.

## 🌸 Colors of Higo Morning Glories 🌸

They come in many colors with striped and splashed patterns.



🌸 How many subtypes are there?

There are 30 different varieties.

## 🌸 History of the Higo Morning Glory 🌸

Morning glories came from abroad as a medicinal plant during the Nara Period (710 – 794). During the Edo period (1603 – 1868), the Higo Morning Glory became the symbolic flower Kumamoto prides itself on due to the encouragement of historic Higo domain lords and the efforts of samurai and volunteers.

- 1899 The Morning Glory Preservation Society (Ryoka-Kai) is formed with 48 members
- 1940 The society expands to 180 members (records of the society were lost during wartime)
- 1945 Air raids in Kumamoto ⇒ Thought to have gone extinct
- 1953 The Great Flood in Kumamoto ⇒ Ms. Sueko Tokunaga alone protected the seeds and continued cultivation, keeping the Higo Morning Glory alive.
- 1961 Ryoka-kai was revived
- 1999 A ceremony was held to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Higo Morning Glory
- 2013 Featured in an exhibition at Kumamoto Castle attended by the Emperor and Empress.

# Higo Morning Glory

## Bloom From July to September!



## 🌸 Growing Morning Glories in a Small Pot 🌸

### A Unique Arrangement!

The entire figure—flowers, vines, leaves—is elegant

Vine Length  
About three times taller than the pot (about 50cm)

### 🌸 Manner of Appreciation 🌸

View while sitting upright on a Japanese tatami mat.



They are carefully grown individually in pots to bloom on their exhibition day!

The first flower grows to be about as tall as the pot (about 12 cm)

The glazed pots have a diameter and height of 12 cm and are custom-made by a pottery in Kumamoto

## 🌸 Higo Morning Glory Appreciation 🌸 A feast of gorgeous flowers!!

2024 Exhibition During the Morning! 10 AM Best Time!

Suizenji Jojuen Garden

8:30 AM – 12 PM

Kokin Denju no Ma:

Potluck Party July 7 (Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of July)

Autumn Exhibition September 6 (Fri) – 8 (Sun)

Rokka Exhibition:

July 8 (Mon) – 10 (Wed), Early September

Kumamoto Castle

Main Castle Keep: July 6 (Sat), 7 (Sun), 13 (Sat), 14 (Sun)

Ninomaru Rest Station: July 6 (Sat) – 15 (Mon)

Koraimon, Asagao Market

July 13 (Sat), 14 (Sun)



※ Exhibition dates and times may change. Please confirm the details with the appropriate facility.

## 🌸 Protect These Pure Seeds! 🌸

Unique seed variants differ in color and size.

Seeds are not for sale.

Ryoka-Kai, the Preservation Society of Higo Morning Glory maintains these precious seeds.



## 🌸 Higo Asagao Ryoka-Kai 🌸 Now Recruiting!

Painstaking, Elegant Production Preservation and Cultivation

June: Cultivation Workshop July/Sept: Exhibition  
About 60 Members \* As of June 2023

< Contact > Higo Asagao Ryoka-kai Office (Kumamoto City Museum)  
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