

## ❀ Features of Higo Peony ❀

What's different from other peonies?

**A big center with a single layer of petals.**

They can grow as large as 30cm (1 foot) in diameter.

The big petals bloom by open up like a lotus flower.

The 100-200 golden stamens puff out very far.

## ❀ Colors of Higo Peony ❀

White

Pink

Red



## ❀ How many subtypes are there?

There are 30 different cultivated varieties.

## ❀ History of the Higo Peony ❀

Higo Peony has the longest history among the Higo Rokka.

- 1751-1763 Originally cultivated as medicinal plants at Banjien, peonies began being grown for their beauty.
- 1795 Nakano Sukenoshin, a retainer of the Higo Domain, publishes a book about peonies under the pen name Hakucho that describes and establishes the cultivation methods of Higo Peony.
- 1826-1860 "Hanaren" groups are formed, and new flower varieties and growing methods are produced.
- 1900-1910's Cultivated varieties are narrowed down from 500 to just 100.
- 1939-1945 World War II ⇒ **Many varieties were lost**
- 1970's Various cultivators come together to form the preservation group 'Hakucho-kai' and share their expertise. The society is currently in recess.

**Through the work of a few successors, the cultivation methods and varieties of Higo peony continue to be preserved.**

# Higo Peony

They usually bloom from  
late April through early May



## ❀ What is necessary to make Higo Peony bloom so large?

- Long roots - Wide sunny areas
- Transplanting every couple years
- Proper irrigation and fertilization are important

Growing Peonies in flower pots is difficult!  
**Flowerbed cultivation is the best way to grow healthy Higo Peony.**

## ❀ Higo Peony were featured at the International Garden and Greenery Exposition, Osaka Japan 1990!

Their successors are currently grown and transplanted in the Kyuhoji Ryokuchi Peony Garden in Yao City, Osaka. **The garden will be open from Fri, April 28 to Fri, May 19 in 2023.**

Kumamoto City Team Tentomushi

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## ❀ Now in Bloom ❀

*The flowers are most beautiful and  
fragrant in the morning!*

## Higo Peony Flowerbeds:

Suizenji Jojuen Garden,  
the Zoological and Botanical Gardens,  
Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo, and  
Kyuhoji Ryokuchi Park in Osaka

*Enjoy the traditional flowerbeds of Higo Peony!*



Higo Peonies in Suizenji Jojuen Garden in 2022

## ❀ 2023 Cut Flower Exhibition ❀

In Tsukahara Museum

Sat, April 29 - Sun, April 30

Suizenji Jojuen Garden

Wed, May 3 - Thu, May 4

**Let's look the beautiful flowers  
and savor their fantastic aroma!**



## ❀ 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 Camellia



Higo Peony



Higo Iris



Higo Morning Glory



Higo Sasanqua



Higo Chrysanthemum

# Higo Rokka

Vol.2, 2023

Peony Season

## Let's learn about Higo Rokka !

This leaflet was created by  
Meisters of Greening in 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
<p>➡ From mid-February to the end of March</p> <p><b>Higo Camellia</b> ひごつばき</p> <p>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</p> <p>* Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden</p>											
<p>↔ From late April through early May</p> <p><b>Higo Peony</b> ひごしゃくやく</p> <p>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</p> <p>* Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Tsukahara Museum</p>											
<p>↔ From late May through mid-June</p> <p><b>Higo Iris</b> ひごはなしようぶ</p> <p>Can be found at Shohinken garden, the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden in Kumamoto and Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo</p> <p>* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden</p>											
<p>From July to September</p> <p><b>Higo Morning Glory</b> ひごあさがお</p> <p>* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Aspecta, Kumamoto Shintoshin Plaza, Koraimon Gate</p>											
<p>From mid-November through early December</p> <p><b>Higo Chrysanthemum</b> ひごぎく</p> <p>Can be found at Suizenji Jojuen Garden</p> <p>* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Kumamoto Shintoshin Plaza Former Residence of Hosokawa Gyobu, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo</p>											
<p>From November through December</p> <p><b>Higo Sasanqua</b> ひござざんか</p> <p>Can be found at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Prefectural Athletic Park in Kumamoto and Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo</p> <p>* Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden</p>											

❀ Higo Rokka are often used as designs in Kumamoto

← A manhole cover with a Higo Camellia design

