

# Higo Peony

Blooms from Late April through Early May

## ❁Features of Higo Peony❁

What makes it different from other peonies?

**A large flower with a single layer of petals and a protruding center**

They can grow as large as 30 cm in diameter  
The big petals bloom like a lotus flower  
100-200 golden stamens in the center!



## ❁How many subtypes are there?

There are 30 different cultivated varieties.

## ❁What colors are there?

White



Pink



Red



## ❁History of the Higo Peony❁

Higo Peony has the longest history among the Higo Rokka

1751-1763 Cultivated as medicinal plants at Banjien → Grown for decorative purposes

1795 Nakano Sukenoshin, a retainer of the Higo Domain, publishes *Review of Peonies* under the pen name *Hakucho* that describes and establishes cultivation and appreciation methods and the art of flowerbed making

1826-1860 *Hanaren* groups are formed, producing new flower varieties and developing breeding and cultivation methods

1900-1910's Cultivated varieties are narrowed down from 500 to just 100

1939-1945 World War II ⇒ Many varieties are lost

1970's Various cultivators come together to form the preservation group *Hakucho-kai* and share their expertise (\*the group is currently in recess)

Through the work of several successors, the cultivation methods and purebred varieties continue to be preserved!

## ❁How Do You Make Higo Peony Bloom Large?

Factors like long roots, replanting every couple years, wide planting grounds with ample sunlight, and proper irrigation and fertilization are important

Growing peonies in flower pots is difficult!

**Flowerbed cultivation** is the best method!

## ❁ Let's View Higo Peony! ❁

**Higo Peony Flowerbeds** Enjoy the traditional flowerbeds of Higo Peony!

Suizenji Jojuen Garden  
KC Zoological and Botanical Gardens  
Higo Hisokawa Garden (Tokyo)  
Kyuhoji Kyokuchi (Osaka)

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



Suizenji Jojuen Garden Flowerbed

## ❁2025 Exhibition❁

Suizenji Jojuen Garden Exhibition: Sat. April 26 – Sun. April 27  
Kumamoto City Tsukawara Museum: Tues. April 29

## Cut Flower Exhibition

Enjoy the beautiful and aromatic cut flowers up close!



\*Exhibition dates are subject to change depending on the blooming forecast or other factors.



## ❁Seen at the International Garden and Greenery Exposition?!

Displayed at the 1990 Exposition in Osaka in 1990!

Currently inherited by and cultivated at the **Kyuhoji Ryokuchi Peony Garden (in Yao City, Osaka)**

The garden will be open from Mon. April 28 to Mon. May 19, in 2025



## ❀ Precious Treasures of Kumamoto ❀

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

2025 Vol.2

Higo Peony



Higo  
Camellia



Did you know?

# Higo Rokka



Higo Iris



Higo  
Sasanqua



Higo  
Chrysanthemum



Higo  
Morning Glory

## ❀ 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 and Bonsai

The profound world of Higo Rokka!

Let's Learn More about Higo Rokka

Created by the Meisters of Greening in Kumamoto City Team てんとむし (Ladybug)

We support the preservation, inheritance, and development of the 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.

## ❀ Let's See the Higo Rokka! ❀

### Blooming Calendar

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	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 Zoological and Botanical Garden											
			From late April through early May								
<b>Higo Peony</b> ひごしずく											
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, Tsukawara 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											
			From July to September								
<b>Higo Morning Glory</b> ひごあさがお											
* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Koraimon Gate and Kumamoto City International Center											
			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, Suizenji Jojuen Garden											
			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											

\*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 exhibits within the castle.



❀ Used in a Variety of Designs Too!

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



Did you know Higo Rokka

Search