

Higo Chrysanthemum

Booms Mid-November through Early December

❀ Features of the Higo Chrysanthemum ❀

What makes it different from other chrysanthemums?

All petals are single petals

Colors:

The shape of the petals is distinctive!

White



Flat

Yellow



Tube

Red



Spoon-like

Flower Size : Large

Diameter : 20-22cm

Height: : 135cm

Medium

8-10cm

90cm

small

5-6cm

45cm



❀ How many subtypes are there?

There are 90~100 varieties

Flowerbeds will always feature different varieties! A 3-ken flowerbed holds 29 varieties.

❀ Flowerbed cultivation is the rule!

The flowerbeds are 3-ken, 2-ken, or 5-ken.

※ ken is a Japanese measurement equal to 1.82m.

❀ How to Admire the Higo Chrysanthemum ❀

View them from a distance of three times the height of the large flowers in the back!

❀ History of the Higo Chrysanthemum ❀

Chrysanthemum is one of the flowers that has been cultivated and loved in Japan since the old days.

1751 Cultivation of Higo Chrysanthemum begins as a cultural policy by the feudal lord,
-1764 Hosokawa Shigekata.

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

1826 The Hanaren regulations are established, allowing selective breeding and the creation of new varieties. The method of flowerbed creation is established.

1887 The Chrysanthemum preservation society "Aiju-Kai" is formed.

1929 Aiju-Kai is reorganized. Rules about sharing seedlings relax and membership numbers rise.

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

Around 1972 The Higo Chrysanthemum Preservation Society is set up within the Kumamoto City Tourism section

1975 The Higo Meika Garden is created in the Takeno-maru area of Kumamoto Castle.

Even today, Aiju-Kai members are preserving cultivation techniques and creating flowerbeds! Seedlings are only shared with members.

❀ Where to Enjoy Higo Chrysanthemum in 2025 ❀

3-ken Flowerbed & Exhibit at Suizenji Jojuen Garden

Mid-November –Mid December, 8:30AM-5PM

[Hear commentary from the Suizenji Jojuen Higo Rokka Team and a Meister of Greening]
Sat., Dec. 6 / Sat., Dec. 7, 10AM -2PM

1-ken Decoration An arrangement of potted flowers

Mid-Nov. –Early-Dec. * Exhibition of flowers grown inside Kumamoto Castle!

Kumamoto Castle : Castle Keep Square, Josaien Wakuwakuza
Suizenji Jojuen Garden

* As of now, only displayed only at these locations.

*Exhibition time and day is subject to change.
Please confirm details with each venue.



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

Heaven / Earth / Humanity

Back Row → Large Flowers (Heaven)

Middle Row → Medium Flowers (Humanity)

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 hold five flowers per seedling.

※7, 9, or 11 flower seedlings are also possible

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

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

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

❀ Aiju-Kai ❀

Passing on the Traditions of

Flowerbed Cultivation and Methods of Preservation

Now accepting applicants who share their love for the Higo Chrysanthemum!

[Activities] ※Only Members Allowed

April: Distribution of Seeds

June: Cultivation Technique Guidance

November: Flowerbed Viewing Party

<Contact> Kumamoto Castle General Affairs Office

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❀ Precious Treasures of Kumamoto ❀

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

2025 Vol.5
Mid November–Early December



Higo
Morning Glory



Higo
Chrysanthemum



Higo
Sasanqua



Higo Iris



Higo
Peony



Higo
Camellia

Did you know?
Higo Rokka

❀ 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 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!



❀ 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 10th-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 Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

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 early April																	
Higo Camellia 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 and Suizenji Jojuen garden																				
			 From late April through early May																	
Higo Peony 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 and Tsukawara Museum																				
			 From late May through mid-June																	
Higo Iris ひごはなしようぶ																				
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																	
Higo Morning Glory 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																	
Higo Chrysanthemum ひごぎく																				
Can be found at Suizenji Jojuen Garden																				
* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden and Kumamoto City International Center																				
			 From November through December																	
Higo Sasanqua 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 flower garden named Higo Meika-en at Kumamoto Castle's Takenomaru is prohibited post-Kumamoto Earthquake.

The Rokka are observable at the exhibitions within the castle.



❀ Used in a Variety of Designs Too! ❀

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



Did you now Higo Rokka

Search