# **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

Diameter:

Height: :

distinctive!



White











Flat Tube Flower Size: Large Medium small 20-22cm 8-10cm 5-6cm 135cm 90cm 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 Shiqekata.
- 1819 Hideshima Shichiemon, a retainer of the Higo Domain, publishes a book about the cultivation methods of Higo Chrysanthemum.
- The Hanaren regulations are established, allowing selective breeding and 1826
- the creation of new varieties The method of flowerbed creation is established.
- The Chrysanthemum preservation society "Aiju-Kai" is formed.
- Aiju-Kai is reorganized. Rules about sharing seedlings relax and membership numbers rise. 1929

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

- The Higo Chrysanthemum Preservation Society is set up within the Kumamoto 1972 City Tourism section
- The Higo Meika Garden is created in the Takeno-maru area of Kumamoto Castle. 1975

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



### Precious Treasures of Kumamoto

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



# **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,

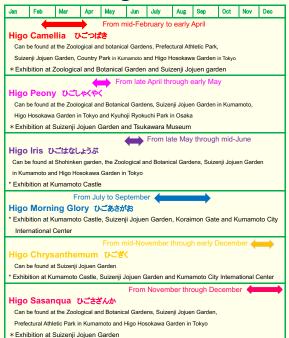
The 6th Hosokawa Lord of the Kumamoto Domain, Hosokawa Shigekata (1720-1785) encouraged clansmen to practice horticulture as a form of self- discipline.

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



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)



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

Did vou now Higo Rokka

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