Center of the Flower!

Large center (the pistil)
Single layer of petals Clear color

Let's see what makes each flower distinct!

Precious Treasures of Kumamoto

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

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 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 the Emperor.

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





July – Sept Higo Morning Glory

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

Glory

Higo Peony

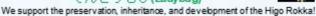






Let's Learn More About Higo Rokka!

Created by Meisters of Greening in Kumamoto City Team てんとうむし(Ladybug)

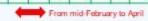


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Let's See the Higo Rokka! Blooming Calendar

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Higo Camellia ひごつばき

Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Prefectural Afriletic Park, Kumamoto Country Park, and Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo)

*Exhibition at Zoological and Botanical Garden (early-March)

From late-April to early-May

Higo Peony ひごしゃくやく

Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo), and Kyuhoji Ryokuchi Green Space (Osaka)

Exhibition at Tsukawara Museum, Suizenji Jojuen Garden

From late-May through mid-June

Higo Iris 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

Higo Morning Glory ひごあさがお

 Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Kumamoto Castle, Koraimon Gate

From mid-November through early-December 🛑

Higo Chrysanthemum ひごぎく

Suizenii Jajuen Garden

 Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Higo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo)

From November through December

h December

Higo Sasangua ひごさざんか

Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Prefectural Athletic Park in Kumamoto, and Hilgo Hosokawa Garden (Tokyo)

Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden

"Exhibition dates and locations are subject to change or may be cancalled.

*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.



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.



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 samural 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 100th 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, leavesis elegant

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

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

Manner of Appreciation

View while sitting upright on a Japanese tatami mat.

Higo Morning Glory Appreciation A feast of gorgeous

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 1st 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 many change. Please confirm the details with the appropriate faculty.

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.

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#Higo Asagao Ryoka-Kai Now Recruiting!

Painstaking, Elegant Production Preservation and Cultivation

June: Cultivation Workshop July/Sept: Exhibition

About 60 Members X As of June 2023

< Contact > Higo Asagao Ryoka-kai Office (Kumamoto City Museum) Tel: (096) 324-3500 Fax: (096) 351-4257

This leaflet was created by Meisters of Greening in Kumamoto City Team てんとうむし(Ladybug)

