# Features of Higo Sasanqua

What makes it different from other Sasanqua?

#### A big center with a single layer of petals

A single layer of large petals and a golden center make for a flower size of 5-15 cm.

#### Some even develope double or multiple layers

The center gets covered with up to 30-50 petals.

# Colors of Higo Sasanqua

Red White





How many subtypes are there?

About 40 varieties

Numerous shapes, sizes and color!

### # History of the Higo Sasanqua

Sasanqua was used as a raw material oil in the old days. It has the shortest history among the six flowers of Higo.

- 1756 Feudal lord Hosokawa Shigekata encourages cultivation of sasanquas as medicinal plants at the Banji-en herb garden. From then on, it is gradually cultivated as an ornamental plant.
- 1865 Yamasaki Sadatsugu, florist and general manager of
- the Higo Iris Society, repeats seedling selection. The famous Yamasaki-Onishiki, or the first Higo Sasangua flower, is created.
  - The process of selective breeding advances and new flower varieties are produced one after another.
- 1900 New varieties such as "Kikenjo", "Benibotan", "Ozora", "Wakanora" and "Hinotsukasa" are produced.
- 1902 The Hanaren Banko-kai group is formed and flower cultivation is preserved by its members.
- 1967 The Higo Sasanqua Society is established.
  The members are devoted to preserving the pure Higo Sasanqua.

# Higo Sasanqua

**Blooms November Through December** 



# The Yamasaki-Onishiki is Representative of Higo Sasanqua

#### What a fantastic bicolor gradation!

The petals have white centers, with a gradation of bright red toward edges and deep red undersides.

## Sasanqua is Native to Japan!

It grows naturally in Western Japan and also throughout Kumamoto Prefecture, and belonging to the camellia genus, of the Theaceae family it's actually a camellia.

## What is the Different Between Sasanqua and Camellia?

#### Sasanqua

Bloom from October to February (autumnwinter). It sheds petals one by one, and has rough- edged leaves with hairy undersides.

#### Camellia

Bloom from January to March (winter-spring). It sheds it's petals completely and has smooth-edged leaves with no hairy undersides.

# Where to Enjoy Higo Sasanqua in 2024!

62<sup>nd</sup> Higo Sasanqua Exhibition (2024) Suizenji Jojuen Garden Exhibition Hall Nov. 23 (Sat) 10:00a.m.-4:30p.m. 24 (Sun) 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

#### Flower Cutting and Pot Planting

View the fragrant flowers up close!
The shape of their branches are also magnificent!



#### **Kumamoto Prefectural General Sports Park**

**Higo Sasanqua Street** 

**Kumamoto City Zoo and Botanical Garden** 

**Higo Rokka Corner** 

Suizenji Jojuen Garden
Flowerbed in front of main torii gate
Relaxation Square

Beside the yabusame grounds

Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo



# Higo Sasanqua Society

Promoting the cultivation, preservation, improvement and dissemination of pure flowers

The association with 17 members (including one German member) is now accepting applicants!

The Higo Sasanqua Exhibition in November has been held every year since the society's founding!

#### <Contact>

Agriculture and Fisheries Bureau, Agricultural Administration Department, Agricultural Support Section Phone: (096) 328-2384 Fax: (096) 351-2030



# 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 Kumamoto cultivated 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.





Did you know? **Higo Rokka**Vol. 6, 2024 **Higo** 

Higo Sasanqua Morning Glory





Higo Camellia

Higo Iris

# Let's Learn More About Higo Rokka!

Created by Meisters of Greening in Kumamoto City

Team てんとうむし(Ladybug)



**Higo Peony** 

We support the preservation, inheritance, and development of the Higo Rokka!

Kumamoto City Team Tentomushi

Search

# Let's See the Higo Rokka! Blooming Calendar



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

#### Higo Peony ひごしゃくやく

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, Tsukawara Museum

From late May through mid-June

#### Higo Iris 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 👍

#### 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

ngo om your mornam o = c

Can be found at Suizenji Jojuen Garden

\* Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle and Suizenji Jojuen Garden

From November through December

#### Higo Sasangua 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 the exhibitions within the castle.



## Used in a Variety of Designs Too!

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