

Higo Morning Glory

Blooms from July to September

Features of Higo Morning Glory

What makes it different from other morning glories?

**A big white center (funnel)
and glossy petals**

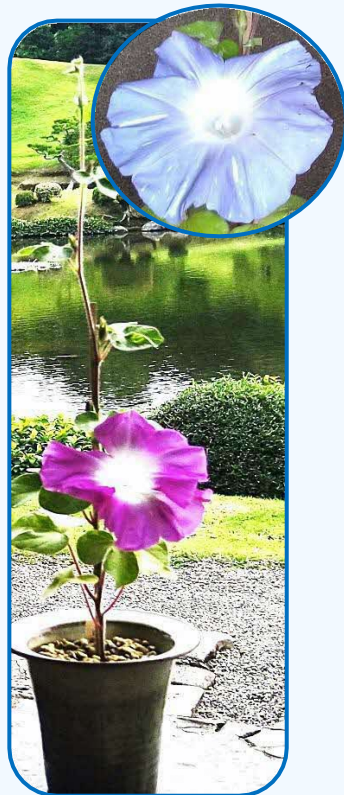
It grows to 9-12 cm in diameter,
has 6-10 connected pleated petals,
many folds, and a large, pure white center!

How many subtypes are there?

There are 30 different varieties

Colors of Higo Morning Glory

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 in the 8th century. Hosokawa Lords encouraged samurai and volunteers in the Kumamoto Domain to grow morning glories, and the Higo Morning Glory eventually became a symbolic flower. Kumamoto prides itself on.

- 1899 Higo Morning Glory Preservation Society Ryoka-Kai is formed with 48 members
- 1940 The society expands to 180 members
Records about the society's activities stopped during WWII
- 1945 Air Raids in Kumamoto ⇒ Higo Morning Glory was thought to be extinct
- 1953 The Great Flood in Kumamoto
Ms. Sueko Tokunaga alone kept the seeds and continued cultivating,
keeping the Higo Morning Glory alive!
- 1961 **Ryoka-Kai was re-formed**
- 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

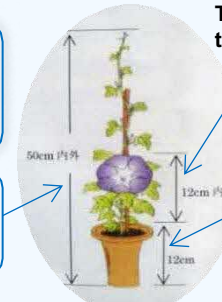
Growing a Morning Glory in a Small Pot A Unique Arrangement!

They are carefully grown individually in pots to bloom on their exhibition day!

**The Entire Figure–
Flowers, Vines,
Leaves– is Elegant!**

Vine Length

About three times longer
than the pot (about 50cm)



The **first flower** grows to be as tall as the pot at its highest point (about 12cm)

The **glazed pots** have a diameter and height of 12 cm and are custom-made pottery in Kumamoto

Manner of Appreciation? View while sitting upright on Japanese tatami mat!

Let's View the Higo Morning Glory! A beautiful feast of flowers!!

Suizenji Jojuen - Kokin Denju no Ma: Potluck gathering July 6 (Every 1st Sun of July)

8:30 AM – 12 PM

Autumn Exhibition Sept 5 (Fri) – 7 (Sun)

Rokka Exhibition Hall: July 7 (Sun) – 9 (Wed), Early Sept



Kumamoto Castle Castle Keep: July 5 (Sat), 6 (Sun), 12 (Sat), 13 (Sun)

Ninomaru Rest Area: July 4 (Fri) – 13 (Mon)

Koraimon Gate: July 12 (Sat), 13 (Sun)

Kumamoto City International Center: Whenever the flowers bloom

※The exhibition schedule may be subject to change. For more detailed information, please contact the respective venue directly.

Protect These Pure Seeds!

Unique seeds vary in color and size depending on the variety. Ryoka-Kai, the Preservation Society of Higo Morning Glory maintains these precious seeds and does not sell them.



Higo Morning Glory Ryoka-Kai Now Recruiting!

Careful and elegant flower cultivation Cultivation and preservation of flowers

June: Cultivation Workshop July/Sept Exhibition *Around 50 members *as of Apr 2025

<Contact> Higo Morning Glory Ryoka-Kai Office (Kumamoto City Museum)

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Did you know Higo Rokka

Search

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



❀ Precious Treasures of Kumamoto ❀

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

2025 Vol.4
July - September

Higo Morning Glory



Higo Chrysanthemum

Did you know?

Higo Rokka



Higo Iris



Higo Peony



Higo Camellia



Higo Sasanqua

❀ 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 and 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 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 know Higo Rokka

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