

# Higo Peony

Blooms from Late April through Early May

## ❁ Features of Higo Peony ❁

What makes it different from other peonies?

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

They can grow as large as 30cm (1 foot) in diameter. The big petals bloom by open up like a lotus flower. The 100-200 golden stamens puff out very far.

## ❁ How many subtypes are there?

There are 30 different cultivated varieties.

## ❁ Colors of Higo Peony ❁



## ❁ What is necessary to make Higo Peony bloom so large?

- Long roots
- Wide sunny areas
- Transplanting every couple years
- Proper irrigation and fertilization are important

Growing peonies in flower pots is difficult!

**Flowerbed cultivation is the best way to grow healthy Higo Peony.**



## ❁ History of the Higo Peony ❁

Higo Peony has the longest history among the Higo Rokka.

- 1751-1763 Originally cultivated as medicinal plants at Banjien, peonies began being grown for their beauty.
- 1795 Nakano Sukenoshin, a retainer of the Higo Domain, publishes a book about peonies under the pen name Hakucho that describes and establishes the cultivation methods of Higo Peony.
- 1826-1860 "Hanaren" groups are formed, and new flower varieties and growing methods are produced.
- 1900-1910's Cultivated varieties are narrowed down from 500 to just 100.
- 1939-1945 World War II ⇒ **Many varieties were lost**
- 1970's Various cultivators come together to form the preservation group 'Hakucho-kai' and share their expertise. The society is currently in recess.

**Through the work of a few successors, the cultivation methods and varieties of Higo peony continue to be preserved.**

## ❁ Higo Peonies featured at The International Expositions!

Higo peonies were featured at The International Garden and Greenery Exposition, Osaka Japan 1990! Their successors are currently grown and transplanted in **Kyuhoji Ryokuchi Peony Garden** in Yao City, Osaka.

The garden will be open from Tue, April 28 to Tue, May 19 in 2026

Higo Peonies will be featured at **GREEN×EXPO 2027 YOKOHAMA JAPAN !**

## ❁ Higo Peony Viewing ❁

*The flowers are most beautiful and fragrant in the morning!*

**Higo Peony Flowerbeds:** Suizenji Jojuen Garden, the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo, and Kyuhoji Ryokuchi Peony Garden in Osaka

Enjoy the traditional flowerbeds of Higo Peony!



## ❁ Cut Flower Exhibition ❁

Suizenji Jojuen Garden : May, Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> – May, Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tsukawara Museum : April, Wed. 29<sup>th</sup>

**Let's look the beautiful flowers and savor their fantastic aroma!**



<Contact> **Flower and Green Collaboration Section**

Phone: +81-96-328-2352

Email: hanatomidori@city.kumamoto.lg.jp

Did you know? Higo Rokka

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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

2026 Vol. 2

### Higo Peony



Higo Camellia



Higo Iris



Higo Sasanqua

Did you know?  
**Higo Rokka**



Higo Chrysanthemum



Higo Morning Glory

### ❀ 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 Kumamoto City Green Meisters 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 10<sup>th</sup>-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.

### ❀ 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								
<b>Higo Camellia</b> ひごつばき Can be found at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Prefectural Athletic Park, Suizenji Jojuen Garden, Country Park, Kumamoto Prefectural office, Former Kumamoto Residence of Koizumi Yakumo in Kumamoto and Higo Hosokawa Garden in Tokyo * Exhibition at Suizenji Jojuen Garden											
			←→ From late April through early May								
<b>Higo Peony</b> 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								
<b>Higo Iris</b> 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								
<b>Higo Morning Glory</b> 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								
<b>Higo Chrysanthemum</b> ひござく Can be found at Suizenji Jojuen Garden * Exhibition at Kumamoto Castle, Suizenji Jojuen Garden and Kumamoto City International Center											
			←→ From November through December								
<b>Higo Sasanqua</b> 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											

❀ 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)



Did you Know? Higo Rokka

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