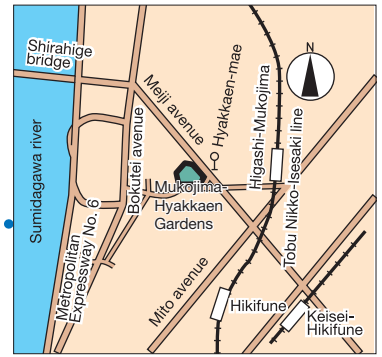


Flowering grasses and flowers of the seasons
the tastes of writers

Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens



Location ●	Higashi-Mukojima 3-chome, Sumida Ward
Contact Information ●	Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3611-8705 (3-18-3 Higashi-Mukojima, Sumida-ku 131-0032)
Transport ●	8-minute walk from Higashi-Mukojima (Tobu-Isesaki line). 13-minute walk from Keisei-Hikifune (Keisei-Oshiage line). 2 or 3-minute walk from Hyakkaen-mae bus stop on Toei bus (route ㊦ 22 Kameido to Nippori).
Closed ●	December 29 to January 3
Open ●	9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)
Admission ●	General: 150 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 70 yen (Primary school and younger children / Jr. high school students living or studying in Tokyo: Free)
Free days ●	Greenery Day (May 4), Tokyo Citizens' Day (October 1)



These flower gardens were built in the early 19th century, when Edo's urban culture was at its peak. They were created by Kikuu Sahara, who had formerly been a dealer in antiques. With the help friends in literary circles, he was able to develop a privately operated flower garden at Mukojima on the site of mansion of a retainer of the shogun. There, people were able to observe a variety of flowering plants and trees.

At first, the gardens consisted mainly of 360 Japanese apricot trees, gaining it the name Shin Umeyashiki (literally, "new house of plum") as it was compared to Umeyashiki in Kameido. Later, plants made famous by Japanese and Chinese classics were added. Those included thunberg's lespedeza, Japanese silver grass, and Chinese bellflower, allowing the gardens to be in bloom in all the seasons. The name Hyakkaen (literally, "hundred-flower garden") was given to the gardens in respect to them blooming radiantly with a hundred flowers in the four seasons.

Hyakkaen was built with a commoner's touch. Constructed by literary persons, it strongly reflected their tastes with a beauty that differs from that of feudal lords' gardens such as Koishikawa Korakuen and Rikugien.

The history of Hyakkaen as a privately operated garden lasted until 1938. It was donated to Tokyo City by the widow of its final owner, Tsunekichi Ogura, in October of that year. The city opened the gardens on a limited basis as fee-based gardens in July 1939. They were designated a special historical site and special scenic spot in October 1978 under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Opened	July 8, 1939
Area	10,885.88 m ² (some areas are state-owned property provided under gratuitous loan) Gardens: 8,718.52 m ² Open park: 2,167.36 m ²
Trees	Tall trees: 870, shrubs: 570
Main plants	Japanese apricot, cherry, Japanese bush clover, deutzia, sasanqua, camellia, various wild grasses
Events	Baskets of the seven herbs of spring (January), visits to shrines of the seven gods of good fortune (January), insect singing (late August), moon viewing (three days around full moon in mid autumn)
Facilities	Gathering hall (Onari-zashiki), children's playground

Japanese Bush clover tunnel ● Japanese Bush clovers grown on fences of bamboo in the form of a tunnel are one of the highlights of the gardens. In late September, a tunnel of flowers 30 meters long is formed.



Tunnel at about the time of the moon viewing

Flower trellises ● The wisteria trellises are covered with sweet smelling red and violet flowers in early May. Other trellises in the park include kudzu, three-leaf akebia, and pumpkin, not seen anywhere else. Kudzus bloom with violet and crimson flowers in summer, and three-leaf akebias with black and violet flowers in spring.

Pumpkins here are not for eating. They are ornamental, only for enjoying their color and form. Late August sees orange pumpkins of about 15 cm in diameter hanging from the trellises.



Seven-herb offering baskets displayed at New Year's

Gourds ● The annual vines cultivated on trellises bloom in about July. From August through September, their fruit can be seen hanging from the trellises.

Nanakusa exhibit ● This exhibit displays the seven flowers of each season, starting with the seven flowers of spring (basket), of summer, and of autumn, one of which is the Japanese bush clover.

Footprints of writers ● The gardens are full of traces of the literary persons who contributed to their development. For example, a framed verse from "Hanayashiki" by Nampo Ota (Shokusanjin) is hung on the gate near the gardens' entrance. On both sides of that are wooden plaques written by Shibutsu Okubo that say, "Spring, summer, autumn, and winter; always filled with flowers," and "From the east, west, south, and north come many guests." Including a monument to Basho Matsuo, there are 29 poem and stone monuments across the park.



Garden gate that symbolizes Hyakkaen



Dogtooth violet that announce the coming of spring

Wild birds ● The grasses and trees are planted in a manner close to their natural form. So birds such as great tits and Japanese white-eyes often visit.

Seven gods of good fortune ● In the Edo era, the Sumidagawa River seven gods of good fortune at Mukojima were well known along with those of Yanaka. Visiting shrines of those gods is an annual event at the beginning of the year. Hyakkaen holds the one dedicated to Fukurokuju.

Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens Flower Calendar

January–March	Japanese apricot, winter sweet, Far East Amur adonis, shibateranthis pinnatifida, camellia sasanqua, dogtooth violet, Japanese cornel, rich & noble orchid, oriental paperbush
April–June	Common sweetshrub, cypripedium japonicum, Lamium album var. barbatum, Chinese redbud, hawthorn, wood poppy, banana shrub, gymnaster savatieri, Japanese meadowsweet, meadowsweet, bletilla, false spiraea, campanula bellflower, deutzia
July–September	Japanese bush clover, Chinese trumpet vine, gold-banded lily, orange coneflower, aeginetia indica, Chinese bellflower, pomegranate, blackberry lily, liliium speciosum, dianthus superbus, kudzu, scarlet hibiscus, Japanese silver grass, gentian, valerian, aibika, Japanese loosestrife, obedient plant, trumpetweed, cotton rosemallow, bottle gourds, tartarian aster
October–December	Kobuku-zakura cherry, sasanqua, toad lily, otome camellia

Gardens guide

Volunteers will guide you on the history and highlights of the gardens. Tours are held at 11 am and 2 pm Saturdays and Sundays. (No charge)

