

THE JAPANESE FLORAL CALENDAR

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649330423

The Japanese Floral Calendar by Ernest W. Clement

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ERNEST W. CLEMENT

**THE JAPANESE
FLORAL CALENDAR**



HUGI-BUSHES (LESPEDA) AT HAGIDERA, TOKYO.

The
Japanese Floral Calendar

By

Ernest W. Clement, M. A.

Profusely Illustrated

Chicago
The Open Court Publishing Company

London Agents
Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd.
1905

COPYRIGHT BY
THE OPEN COURT PUBLISHING CO.
1904

SB455
C6

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Introduction	1
The Pine	3
The Plum	9
The Peach. The Dolls' Festival	15
The Cherry	18
The Wistaria	24
The Iris	28
The Morning-Glory	31
The Lotus	35
The Nanakusa	38
The Maple	42
The Chrysanthemum	45
The Camellia	49
Conclusion	51

INTRODUCTION.

THE JAPANESE are a nature-loving people and frequently give practical expression to their feelings by taking a holiday simply for "flower-viewing." At the proper season, the entire nation, so to speak, takes a day off and turns out on a big picnic, to see the plum blossoms, or the cherry blossoms, or the maples, or the chrysanthemums. No utilitarian views of the value of time or miserly conceptions of the expense of such outings prevail for a moment; for the Japanese are worshippers of beauty rather than of the "almighty dollar." A few pennies on such occasions bring many pleasures, and business interests are sacrificed at the shrine of beauty. And, as one or more flowers are blooming every month, there is almost a continuous round of such picnics during the year. Having lived in Japan for some time, it is my purpose, therefore, to tell my American countrymen something of the flower or flowers popular each month, with some folk-lore, poems, or other description thereof and have it illustrated by pictures. But first we must call attention to the fact, that the Japanese word *hana* includes, not only a "flower" or "blossom" according to our conceptions, but also twigs, leaves, grasses, etc., so that the pine, the maple, and even the snow may come into this category.

We are confronted at the very outset with a chronological difficulty in presenting this subject to Western readers. For the programme of Japanese floral festivals was originally arranged on the basis of the old lunar calendar, so long in vogue in Japan. By that calendar the New Year came in about the 21st of January to the 18th of February; so that it was from three to seven weeks behind the Occidental solar calendar. For instance, the following is a floral programme according to the "old style":

First month	(about February)	Pine.
Second month	(" March)	Plum.
Third month	(" April)	Cherry.

Fourth month	(about May)	Wistaria.
Fifth month	(" June)	Iris.
Sixth month	(" July)	Tree peony.
Seventh month	(" August)	Lespedeza.
Eighth month	(" September)	Eularia.
Ninth month	(" October)	Chrysanthemum.
Tenth month	(" November)	Maple.
Eleventh month	(" December)	Willow.
Twelfth month	(" January)	Paulownia.

But when Japan adopted the Gregorian calendar, many of the floral festivals were transferred to the new style without regard to the awful anachronism that followed. In the case of the pine, which is chosen for the first month on account of the prominent part that it plays in the New Year's decorations, it makes no special difference whether the New Year begins January 1 or February 18. But in many other cases the calendar suffers serious dislocation, because some of the "flowers" cannot conveniently be moved back a month or more. The autumn full moon, too, in whose festival certain blossoms figured, cannot be arbitrarily hurried up. Hence, it is rather difficult for the flowers of Old Japan to run on the new Occidental schedule.

But, taking all these difficulties into consideration, and harmonising them so far as possible, we have been able to construct the following modern Japanese floral calendar:

January	Pine.	July	Morning-glory.
February	Plum.	August	Lotus.
March	Peach.	September	"Seven Grasses."
April	Cherry.	October	Maple.
May	Wistaria.	November	Chrysanthemum.
June	Iris.	December	Camellia.

This calendar we shall follow in this book.*

* The following is an alternative:

January	{ Pine and	July	Morning-glory.
February	{ Bamboo.	August	Lotus.
March	Plum.	September	"Seven Grasses."
April	Cherry.	October	{ Chrysanthemum.
May	Wistaria.	November	{ Maple.
June	Iris.	December	Camellia.