

An *ezorisu* (Hokkaido squirrel) among the *katakuri* (Japanese dogtooth violets) and *ezoengosaku* (corydalis) at Urausu Shrine  
Photo: Chappy/PIXTA



*Fukujuiso* (Amur adonis) in flower in the Numanotaira district of Yamato Town, Kitakata City, Fukushima Prefecture  
Photo: AFL0



# The Flowers that Give Color to Japanese Spring



Evening view of Kita-kujukushima from the observatory at the summit  
Photo: Courtesy of Nagashiyama Visitor Center



Sainokami no Fuji viewed from above  
Photo: AFL0

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mong the more than 5,000 species of flowering plants in Japan are some 1,500 endemic species—plants that are native to the Japanese archipelago. Many of these plants blossom in spring, coloring gardens, fields and mountains from north to south in their own unique ways. In this month’s issue of *Highlighting Japan*, we take a look at some of these long cherished flowers, from “spring fairies” the dogtooth violets and corydalis in Japan’s northernmost region, Hokkaido, to the azaleas on the southernmost main island of Kyushu.

