



Major Alpine Plants of Mt. Norikura: Flowers You Can See along the Trail from Tatamidaira to Mt. Hut

Numerous representative Japanese alpine plants can be seen around the stone pine forests and rocky areas in the alpine zone above 2,500m in elevation. Please enjoy observing these plants in the “sky flower fields” while taking care not to damage these plants thriving in harsh environments.



Hakusanichige (Ranunculaceae)
Anemone narcissiflora subsp. *nipponica*

A perennial found around meadows, snowfields, and snow patches in the alpine zone, blooming from late June to July. It is an endemic species to Japan, with Hakusan as its type locality.



Aonotsugazakura (Ericaceae)
Phyllodoce aleutica

A shrub found around scree slopes, snowfields, and snow patches in the alpine zone. Its urn-shaped, yellow-green flowers bloom around July.



Chinguruma (Rosaceae)
Sieversia pentapetala

A shrub found around meadows, snowfields, and snow patches in the alpine zone, blooming around July. The sight of its fluffy seeds swaying in the wind during fruiting season is striking.



Miyamadaikonso (Rosaceae)
Geum calthifolium var. *nipponicum*

A perennial growing on alpine rocky slopes, blooming from July to August. Closely related to Chinguruma; both species turn red in autumn.



Koiwakagami (Diapensiaceae)
Schizocodon soldanelloides f. *alpinus*

A perennial growing around rocky areas, meadows, and stone pine forests in the alpine zone, blooming around June to July. Its leaves are glossy. An endemic species to Japan.



Komakusa (Papaveraceae)
Dicentra peregrina

A perennial growing on gravelly areas in the alpine zone, blooming from July to August. Its beautiful flowers, often called the “Queen of Alpine Plants,” are frequently seen on Mt. Norikura.



Iwatsumekusa (Caryophyllaceae)
Stellaria nipponica

A perennial found around rocky areas and gravelly areas in the alpine zone, blooming from July to September. An endemic species to Japan. Its leaves resemble claws.



Ontade (Polygonaceae)
Aconogonon weyrichii var. *alpinum*

A perennial found around gravelly areas and landslide areas in the alpine zone, blooming from July to September. Dioecious; the red flowers and fruits are on the female plants. An endemic species to Japan.



Yotsubashiogama (Orobanchaceae)
Pedicularis japonica

A perennial found around meadows and rocky areas in the alpine zone, blooming around July to August. Recently distinguished from a species found north of Tohoku, it is now recognized as an endemic species to Japan.



Iwagikyo (Campanulaceae)
Campanula lasiocarpa

A perennial found around rocky areas and gravelly areas in the alpine zone, blooming from July to September. The closely related Chishimagikyo has hairy corollas and glossy leaves.



Miyamaakinokirinso (Asteraceae)
Solidago virgaurea subsp. *leiocarpa*

A perennial found around meadows and rocky areas in the alpine zone, blooming around August to September. It is considered an alpine form of Akinokirinso that has adapted to mountainous environments.



Toyakurindo (Gentianaceae)
Gentiana algida

A perennial found around gravelly areas, rocky areas, and dry meadows in the alpine zone, blooming from August to September. The flowers are white with green or blue mottling.



English



繁體字



简体字



한국어



The four seasons of Rock Ptarmigan



Winter plumage

Male has black eyestripe. Female has soft facial feature because eyes separate with beak.



Breeding plumage

Male becomes black and female is mottled in brown and black. They spend most of the day together as a pair from May to June.



Nest

Most nests are made in low shrub of stone pine. Incubation and brooding are responsible by female.



Eggs

Japanese rock ptarmigan averagely lays 6 eggs. Eggs are laid on dead leaves of stone pine.



Chicks are born (hatched) in late June and early July. Because small chicks are weak to severe climate, they are frequently kept warm under their mother's body. Over half of chicks are lost in a month after birth by predation and harsh weather.



Chicks become size as large as adult for 3 months and independent from their mother.



Molting to Autumn plumage begins after midsummer. Autumn plumage is difficult to distinguish by sexes, because their colors are similar.

Representative wildlife in alpine zone on Mt. Norikura



Spotted Nutcracker (Corvidae)

A member of the crow family inhabiting subalpine to alpine zones. They have the habit of caching nuts of stone pine to eat later.



Alpine accentor (Prunellidae)

A small mountain bird with a beautiful song. As they often forage on the ground, some people mistake them for a chick of ptarmigan.



Asian black bear (Ursidae)

Bears are also able to be seen in alpine zone in summer. No personal injury accident has occurred in recent years at Mt. Norikura.



Ermine (Mustelidae)

A small member of the weasels with carnivorous tendencies. Despite its cute appearance, it preys on eggs and chicks of ptarmigans.



English



繁體字



简体字



한국어

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