

The serene south pond was a favorite place of Empress Shoken (1849–1914). It is around 8,000 square meters, and its source is the nearby Kiyomasa's Well. In early summer, the pond is full of water lilies, in autumn, it is covered with colorful leaves, and in winter, waterfowl swim in it. Kingfishers and several species of herons may be seen here throughout the year.

One of the best views is from the top of the lawn, just in front of the teahouse, which affords the most comprehensive view of the garden. Toward the pond and iris garden, there are benches for visitors wishing to contemplate the scenery.

Japanese rice fish, various types of carp, and turtles live in the pond. The *otsuri dai*, or fishing platform, was constructed by order of the Emperor for Empress Shoken, who enjoyed fishing at this spot.