

The iris garden located to the northwest of the south pond is arguably the most famous part of Meiji Jingu Gyoen. It was originally rice fields in the Edo period (1603–1867). The garden was planted on the request of Emperor Meiji (1852–1912) for Empress Shoken (1849–1914) in 1893. Approximately 80 varieties of irises were planted in the paddy fields which are irrigated by water from Kiyomasa's Well nearby. The garden now has more than 1,500 Japanese iris plants of 150 different types, which reach full bloom in June.