

Plants (short version)

From luscious forests to rugged coastlines, mountains to shallow bays, Ise-Shima National Park is home to a wide range of plant life.

Trees in Ise-Shima's forests and mountains are mostly evergreen. Old-growth vegetation remains in the conserved area of the forest of Ise Jingu, the most important *jinja* (Shinto shrine) in Japan. Here, coniferous trees and evergreen broad-leaved (laurel) trees mingle. The ubame-gashi oak (*Quercus phillyraeoides*) grows in the second-growth forest of Ise-Shima National Park. The timber is used as a raw material for charcoal.

In the early spring, kobanomitsuba tsutsuji (*Rhododendron reticulatum*), a species of azalea, blooms pale purple in a number of areas, including the Yokoyama Picnic Site and Tomoyama Park. In winter, yabutsubaki (*Camellia japonica*), one of the commonly seen indigenous plants of Ise-Shima, blooms red on Mt. Konpira.

Unique coastal plants grow in the open sand dunes on beaches such as Shima's Koshirahama and Hironohama. Poison bulb (*Crinum asiaticum*) display thin white flower petals in July and August. In early August, visitors can enjoy hamabo's (*Hibiscus hamabo*) yellow flowers on the shores of Gokasho Bay, Ago Bay, and Matoya Bay.

The seas around Ise-Shima are relatively shallow, providing the perfect environment for various species of seaweed such as *hijiki* (*Sargassum fusiforme*) and agar weed (*Gelidiaceae*).