

Nawashiro Cherry Blossom Trees

The Nawashiro Cherry Blossom Trees are two giant trees in Wasa, an area of Gero about a 20-minute drive southwest of the town's center. The trees are 30 and 25 meters tall and measure 4 and 3 meters in diameter, respectively. They are estimated to be around 400 years old. On spring nights when the trees are in bloom, they are illuminated, their reflections in water-filled rice paddies making a special sight.

The trees are named after the paddies in which they are reflected, which are used to grow rice seedlings. The blossoms provided a signal to local farmers that it was time to prepare for the growing season. At the end of their short bloom, the trees' petals fall beautifully onto the seedling paddies. The Nawashiro trees, which are also known as "calendar cherry blossoms" because of their traditional function, are located in a quiet neighborhood with a few houses and a bubbling stream.