

***Kiryu Zaiku* Wickerwork**

Kiryu zaiku (willow craft) is wickerwork that is made by hand using a species of willow that thrives in the Toyooka area. This sturdy and supple material produces durable items. Rattan is also used.

Woven baskets were an important product when Toyooka was a growing castle town. Other items followed, including storage containers, lunch boxes, and bags. Some of the bags were eventually given handles and locks in imitation of Western-style handbags. The craft is still practiced by a few artisans in the Toyooka area, and *kiryu zaiku* goods are sold at stores in Izushi, Kinokuni Onsen, and Toyooka.