

## Early Spring Flowers

The last snows melt at this elevation on Hachimantai around mid- to late May. Once temperatures rise, the first flowers to brighten the wetlands are *ezonoryukinka* (marsh marigold), *mizubasho* (Asian skunk cabbage), *shojyobakama* (swamp pink), Tateyama gentian, and three-leaf goldthread. These plants are best enjoyed in spring, as in the summer they are partially obscured by tall aquatic plants such as common reed and Japanese moor grass.