

## Makino Crab Apple Trees

Known as *nokaido* in Japanese, the Makino crab apple is a rare type of crab apple tree that grows only along streams in the Ebino Highlands.

Makino crab apple trees grow to around 4 meters in height and produce small, pinkish-white blossoms that open from pink buds in late April. The fruit is approximately 7 millimeters in size, ripening to a deep red in fall.

In 1923, the Makino crab apple's natural habitat was designated a National Natural Monument. Despite efforts to protect the trees, including installing protective fencing to prevent damage from deer, the number of Makino crab apple trees has steadily declined over the years. In a 2019 survey, only 225 mature trees remained.

Concerned that this variety of *nokaido* is in danger of becoming extinct, the Ministry of the Environment, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, and Miyazaki and Kagoshima prefectures have combined forces to protect the trees through conservation.

## Please Don't Feed the Deer

Feeding the deer encourages them to stray into the vicinity of the Makino crab apple habitat. Please help to protect the Ebino Highlands' natural beauty and avoid damage to vegetation by not feeding the local deer.