

Seiden Fields

The Seiden Fields currently consist of nine plots: six rice paddies and three plots to grow plants including Oga lotus and peonies. These fields represent the legacy of the rice paddies that once occupied the garden on a larger scale for the practical cultivation of rice.

The current rice paddies were created at the end of the Edo period (1603–1867) on the model of the Chinese Zhou Dynasty land-division system. In that system a square piece of land is divided into nine plots; eight are allocated to separate families for the cultivation of rice for their own use and the ninth, the center plot, is managed jointly. The system is based on highly regarded Confucian principles; at Korakuen, the system is represented on a small scale, but in 1670 the Ikeda clan applied it on a larger scale to create rice fields in what is now Okayama Prefecture's city of Bizen.

Okayama Korakuen's annual Rice Planting Festival has been celebrated at the garden since 1962 and takes place at the rice paddies on the second Sunday of June. Rice planting is done by hand during the festival by workers and volunteer visitors, and the fruits of their labor are harvested later in the year, usually in October.