

Hepatica - Hobby in Japan

The first traditions and reports about hepatica date back to 1603. A book by Ihaita Ito, published in 1733, has many color illustrations about Hepatica. This became the source of many collections, these were primarily from nature. The areas around Nigata and the west coast of central Japan were the distribution area of *H. nobilis* var. *japonica* f. *magna*. There, the genetic variability is particularly suitable for various collectibles. In the meantime the Hepatica had fallen into oblivion. At the end of 1970 the Hepatica were "rediscovered" in nurseries and by collectors and have meanwhile been elevated to a cult and status symbol. There are said to be around 1000 varieties in Japan. There are hepatica exhibitions in Tokyo and Nigata, where collectors and gardeners meet to exhibit their best plants. In individual categories there are prizes in the form of hand-painted plates with hepatica motifs. These pieces are always unique and are made in a certain ceramic workshop in Japan. In the meantime, there are small events of hepatica lovers who have come together in the Japanese Hepatica Society. The plants are grown in unpainted clay pots on stands. For special specimens one takes then beautifully painted and lacquered clay pots, these are already an own art benefit and therefore not completely cheaply. As you can see, hepatica as a collecting passion is not quite cheap. For especially rare specimens you can put some 1000 € on the table. We know this also with orchids or koi carps, on the other hand lovers of art also spend millions of € for "old masters"! So do not be deterred and try it with simple, inexpensive Hepatica specimens, and you will see, soon you also have the **Hepatica addiction!**

Hepatica = Liverwort =
Yukiwariso = „The plant that breaks the snow“



Cultivation on racks at a hepaticulturist I know in Japan
Image, Sakuma



valuable hepatica pot



2004 received from Japan for my Hepaticas collection

