

Exhibition in Japan; picture taken from a Japanese hepatica catalog

Hepatica occurrence in Japan

Excerpts from a paper by Atsushi Kuyama in the journal, of Japan "Alpine Rock Garden Society", Volume 10, June 1990.

... In Japan, Hepatica is classified into several species. The most important Hepatica species in Japan is *Hepatica nobilis* var. *japonica* f. *magna*, which is most commonly found in the Niigata area (Ishikawa-Aomori area) along the Sea of Japan. The lobes are usually round. Numerous species occur in this area, with leaf variations and different numbers of sepals. For this genus alone, several books have been published in Japan.

Visiting (about 1980) the home of this form magma, I got into bright enthusiasm in its wonderful environment, with its many variations...



Natural site
Image taken from a Japanese hepatica catalog

Companion plants in the nature of Japan

Hepatica also grow in Japan in forests and in shady as well as semi-shady locations. They grow in different soil, often in humus over sandstone, lava, granite or calcareous rocks. Generally, they can be found at altitudes in the mountains and canyons, up to 1250 meters. Their companion plants in deciduous forests are *Fagus crenata*, *Acer mono*, *Castanea crenata*, *Zelkova serrata*, *Daphne kantschatica* var. *jezoensis* and *Prunus jamasakura*. In evergreen forests they can be found among *Pinus densiflora*, *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, *Kamelia japonica* as well as various species of bamboo. In the perennial area plants like *Erythronium dens-canis* f. *japonicum*, *Anemone pseudoaltaica*, *Adonis amurensis* as well as some dwarf grass species can be found.



Natural site
Image taken from a Japanese hepatica catalog



Adonis amurensis Chichibubeni



Anemone pseudoaltaica



Erythronium dens-canis f. *japonicum*