



5

Sakai Hills Fruit Line

Kado/Jin ga Oka, Mikuni-cho, Sakai City; Ieyoshi/Miyadani, Awara City

Melons, pears, *koshi no rubi* tomatoes, broccoli, *satsuma imo* sweet potatoes, and lavender are among the many varieties of produce dotting these fertile hills, whose gentle slopes and lush colors bring to mind masterful landscape paintings...



Fields awash in the rich scent of lavender (Kado, Mikuni-cho, Sakai City)

At approximately 1,000 hectares, the sandy soils of northern Sakai's hills comprise Fukui Prefecture's largest horticultural area, situated 40m above sea level. Through this cuts the Fruit Line, the area's main agricultural road, and along its borders passengers can find a variety of produce throughout the year, and enjoy the brilliant colors each lend to the landscape.



The Fruit Line, passing through northern Sakai's hill country (Jin ga Oka, Mikuni-cho, Sakai City)

Visitors can try their hands at lavender- and blueberry-picking and more, enjoying time in the fields while taking in their irresistible aroma.



Earl's melon



Koshi no rubi tomatoes^①



Greenhouses in the morning sun (Ieyoshi, Awara City)

The greenhouses dotting these hills nurture a wide variety of melons, including earl's melon; *koshi no rubi* tomatoes, a medi-tomato created through cutting-edge agricultural methods; and a wide variety of other farm produce.

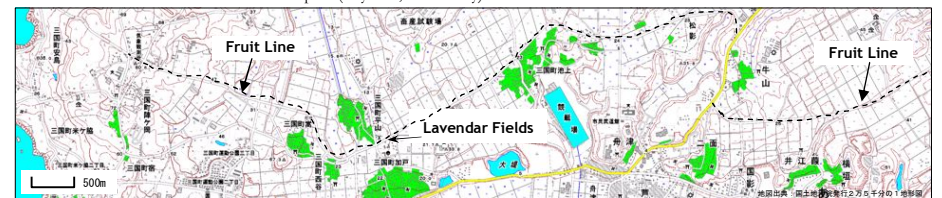
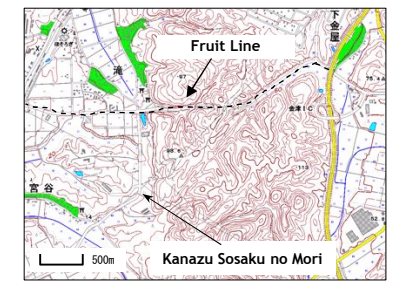


Broccoli fields (Jyoshinden, Awara City)

Nestled among the serene fields and rolling mountains is Kanazu Sosaku no Mori, comprised of eateries, and art museum, glass and pottery factories, and more. Visitors are welcome to experience all that it has to offer, be it through observation or the myriad hands-on opportunities available there.



Kanazu Sosaku no Mori's waterside park (Miyatani, Awara City)^②



Photos①~② courtesy of Awara City