



Echizen Narcissus

Koshino, Fukui City; Echizen, Echizen-cho; Kōno, Minami Echizen-cho

From the frigid winter snows burst forth fields of Echizen narcissus flowers, a sight captured by Edo Period poet Kaga no Chiyojo. The cliffs of Echizen grow awash with their sweet scent...



Narcissus blossoms at Nashi ga Daira, Echizen-cho

Winter at the Echizen Coast is colored by fields of the narcissus, which bloom from mid-December to the beginning of January. Awaji Island and the Bōsō Peninsula serve as one of the three places along the Japan Sea



Nami no hana, winter waves striking against the Echizen coast

coast where the flower is cultivated, nestled between mountain and sea. This mid-winter flower is a symbol of the area as well as the official flower of Fukui Prefecture.

The history of Echizen narcissus dates back to the Muromachi Period, wherein records indicate that the ruling shōgun was presented with the flower and cultivated it along the coast. Since the Azuchi-Momoyama Period, it has been used in *ikebana* flower arrangements and tea ceremonies.



Narcissus Festival^①



Terraced fields where the narcissus is cultivated (Nashi ga Daira, Echizen-cho)



Waves crashing against the rocky coast^②

These flowers have become well-known as inspiration for *haiku* poems and works of art, as well as the focus of the local Narcissus Festival in mid-January. *Nami no hana* (“flower of the waves”) “blossom” along the coast as waves driven by Fukui’s strong winter winds crash into its rocky shores, making “flowers” out of bubbling foam created by the collision.

The houses situated on the Echizen Cape’s northern end, referred to as Nashi ga Daira, are the homes of farmers tending to the thousand terraced fields dotting the hillsides, on which narcissus flowers are cultivated.

