6. Major Japanese Floricultural Exports

**Ranunculus asiaticus**
Japanese seed companies developed upwardly-blooming *Ranunculus* asiaticus cultivars with short cultivation periods. Breeding improvements since 1990 have resulted in this being an important cut flower in the global market. A wide color range is a special characteristic of Japanese *Ranunculus* asiaticus.

**Helianthus annuus**
Japanese growers have cultivated strong-stemmed cultivars with a long shelf life. Japanese *Helianthus* annuus cultivars have become popular with growers throughout the world.

**Matthiola incana**
Matthiola incana varieties were originally introduced to Japan from the United States. Since 1979, Japanese growers have cultivated strong-stemmed cultivars with a long shelf life. Japanese *Matthiola incana* cultivars have become popular with growers throughout the world.

**Asplenium**
The beautiful, large emerald colored leaves are a special feature of this fern that is used in many floral arrangements. Japanese *Asplenium* cultivars are also popular as pot plants for indoor decoration.

**Spiraea**
Various cultivars of *Spiraea* are produced as materials for Bokana. Soft, delicate blossoms cover the branches of the stems. An abundance of like-a-some per stem is a special feature of Japanese *Spiraea* cultivars.

Distribution: Shintorokawa, Nada, Kanagawa, and Tottori.

*Note:* All images are courtesy of the Japan Flower Export Promotion Center and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.