



WINTER

▲New Year's ornament pine branches, *Kadomatsu*

(門松)

"Kadomatsu" is decorations made with assembled pine branches enhanced by stems of bamboo and sprays of plum trees.

Japan's Flower Culture

日本の花文化

Life and culture in relation to flowers and plants -A literary calendar of flowers and plants-

In Japan, a country where flowers and plants have a strong presence, there are various festivities and customs in connection with flowers and plants. Participation in these annual events allows the Japanese to establish and reconfirm the bonds they have with one another.

The Japanese possess a unique sense of beauty hidden in its traditions, in which simplicity takes precedence over splendor. Such sense was developed in the pursuit for beauty derived from being at one with nature, accompanied by the feeling of loneliness of some kind at its core. This sentiment has been passed on over generations in its world-class traditional culture, such as the Japanese floral art (Ikebana), Bonsai, and Tea ceremony.

花による暮らしと文化ー花の歳時記ー

花の国、日本には、花や緑にまつわるさまざまな行事や習慣があります。日本人は、そうした年間の催しごとを共有しあうことで、お互いの絆を確認しあいます。

また、日本人は、簡素を尊び華美を避ける独特ともいえる美的感覚を伝統的に秘めています。それは、ある種の寂寥感を根底に伴うもので、自然と一体となった美の追求のなかで生まれたものです。こうした心情世界は、日本が世界に誇る生け花や盆栽、あるいは茶道などの日本の伝統文化に脈々と受け継がれています。

SUMMER

▲Star Festival, *Tanabata* (七夕)

An event on July 7th, making one wish upon the stars. People write their wishes on colorful strips of paper and hang them on bamboo branches.

▶The O-bon festival (お盆)

This is the Buddhist event occurring from the 13th to 16th of July or August to hold a memorial service to the spirits of ancestors. Some specific kind of flowers called O-bon flowers are offered to ancestors on those days.