

# The 4-day life of the lotus



From around 4:00 to 5:00 in the morning the petals start to loosen, and after opening in the shape of a jug mouth, they begin to close at around 8:00AM without fully opening. The stamen is stuck to the receptacle, and the pollen is not yet released. Weather conditions can greatly influence how it blooms.



The petals begin to loosen at around 1:00AM before fully blooming at around 7:00-9:00AM and then closing at 11:00AM. The shape and color of the flower are the most elegant, and the stamen opens, intensifying its aroma. The tip of the stamen moistens, and the receptacle is tinged with yellow.



The same as Day 2, the flower fully blooms at around 9:00AM, with the diameter reaching its maximum. From around noon it starts to close, then ends the day without closing completely. The area around the receptacle starts to take on a green hue.



By 8:00AM the flower is in full bloom with the petals gradually starting to fall off, and by just after 3:00PM they have all fallen. Its color continues to fade, with the receptacle top becoming greener and the stamen tip blackening.

**What is the Oga Lotus?**  
It is a sacred lotus which has existed for 2000 years. In 1951 Dr. Ichiro Oga discovered it at what is currently the Tokyo University Kemigawa Athletics and Sports Ground located in Hanamigawa-ku, Chiba City, and it was named after him. Its petals number 14-24 with a total diameter of 15-28cm. The Oga Lotus is a single-flowering, very early-blooming, pink lotus.

**The yearly cycle of the Oga Lotus**  
In mid-April the lotus has floating leaves, in early May standing leaves, and in late May the buds appear on the water's surface. From mid-June to early July is the best time to see it bloom. Around the end of August it is done flowering, and in November the standing leaves wither. In December the leaves are harvested, and in March the following year the lotus root is unearthed and transplanted. \*This may differ slightly depending on where it is grown.

**What is the best time to view the Oga Lotus?**  
The color and shape of the flower is most elegant on the second day, fully blooming at 7:00-9:00AM. At around 11:00AM it completely closes, so it is recommended to view it as early as possible (6:00-9:00AM). Also, the blooming and closing times differ depending on weather conditions such as sunlight, atmospheric temperature, and rainfall.

**What happens to the fruit receptacle after flowering?**  
The pure Oga Lotus seed is stored at the lotus pond in Chiba Park, so the flower is only cultivated using its roots. The fruit receptacle is harvested before the fruit matures and falls in order to prevent crossbreeding with other lotus seeds.

Issued by: Greenery Administration Division, Parks and Greenery Department, Urban Development Bureau, City of Chiba Phone: 043-245-5775

Chiba City's Flower  
**The Oga Lotus**

To commemorate Chiba City becoming an ordinance-designated city in 1993, the Oga Lotus was designated as the City Flower.

# Oga Lotus Guide Map

## 1 Shirasagi Park

When: Late June through early July

\*There is no parking lot at the park.

- 1-4 Mizuho, Hanamigawa-ku, Chiba City 262-0026
- Access: From Shin-Kemigawa Station on the JR Sobu Line Take the Keisei Bus for "Hanamigawa Kuyakusho" Get off at the final stop, "Hanamigawa Kuyakusho", and walk about 4 minutes



## 2 Tokyo University Kemigawa Athletics and Sports Ground (former) Tokyo University Landscape Plants Research Center

Every year in mid-July the "Hanazono Lotus-Viewing Festival" hosts a simple garden of lotuses. You can view many other lotuses in addition to the Oga Lotus.

\*Only open to the public during the "Hanazono Lotus-Viewing Festival"

- 1051 Hatamachi, Hanamigawa-ku, Chiba City 262-0018
- Access: From Shin-Kemigawa Station on the JR Sobu Line Take the Keisei Bus for "Kusano Shako" or "Yachiyodai Station" Get off the bus at "Kuyakusho Iriguchi" and walk about 2 minutes



## 3 Makuhari Seaside Park Mihama-en

When: Late July through early August

\*In Mihama-en from 8:00-17:00 with admission fee (may be temporarily closed some days)

- 2-116 Hibino, Mihama-ku, Chiba City 261-0021
- Access: About 8 minutes on foot from the south exit of Kaihimakuhari Station on the JR Keiyo Line



## 4 Tomita Satoriwa Farm

When: Early to late July  
\*Viewable in Harada Pond near the management office  
The management office is closed on Mondays (or the following day if Monday is a holiday) and during the year-end period.

- 711-1 Tomita-cho, Wakaba-ku, Chiba City 265-0041
- Access: Take the Chiba Urban Monorail and get off at Chishirodai Station Take the Omago Bus and get off at "Tomita Shinden", then walk about 10 minutes OR take the Sarashina Bus and get off at "Tomita-cho 1", then walk about 13 minutes



## 5 Chiba Park Lotus Pond and Lotus Pavilion



When: Early through late June  
The "Oga Lotus Festival" is held every year in mid-June.

\*There is no parking lot at the park.

- 3-1-1 Bente, Chuo-ku, Chiba City 260-0045
- Access: About 10 minutes on foot from the Chiba Koen exit or north exit of JR Chiba Station Take the Chiba Urban Monorail and get off at Chiba Koen Station, then walk about 2 minutes

\*Chiba Park website

\*Lotus Information Center

