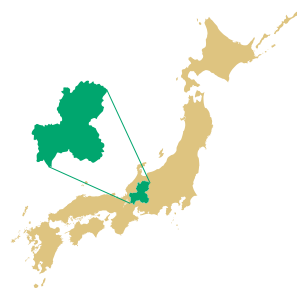


A Statistical Guide to **Gifu** Prefecture



Prefectural Flower

RENGE : The Chinese Milk Vetch

The *renge* was chosen as Gifu's Prefectural flower by the public in March 1954. This flower represents the idyllic scenery of spring time.



Prefectural Tree

ICHII : The Yew

The *ichii* was used to make *shaku*, or ornamental scepters used as offerings to the emperor in ancient times. The name *ichii* stems from the title of *Sho-Ichii*, the highest rank bestowed by the emperor to *shaku* manufacturers.

Prefectural Bird

RAICHO : The Ptarmigan

The *raicho* inhabits mountains in the Japan Alps at altitudes exceeding 2,400 meters above sea level. Its feathers are brown in summer, turning white in winter. This bird is a nationally protected species.



Picture Provided by Yukitoshi Otsuka

Prefectural Fish

AYU : The Sweetfish

The *ayu* is widely appreciated for its beautiful appearance and sweet taste. This fish is well-known all over the country for its association with *ukai*, cormorant fishing on the Nagara River.

