

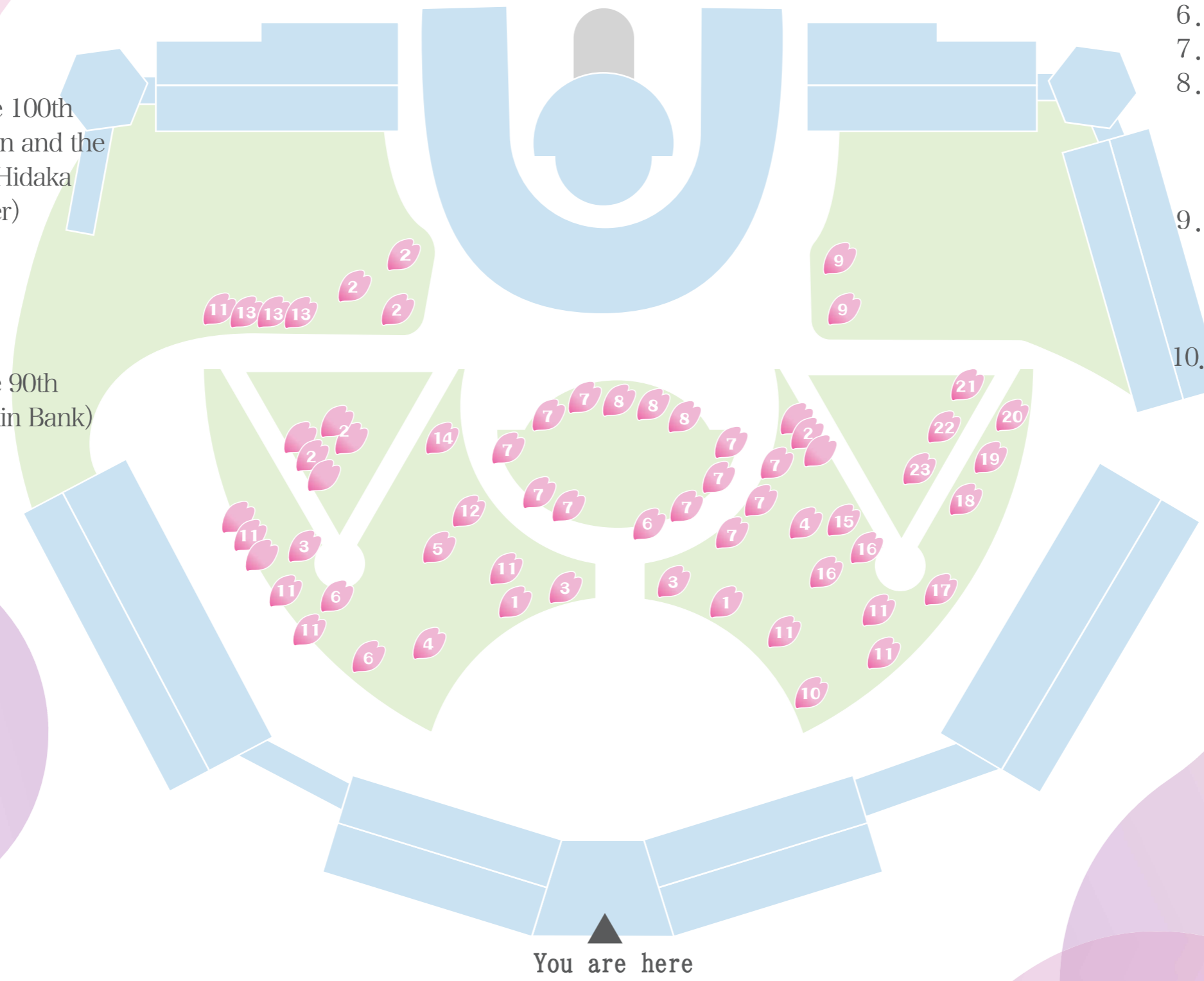
Urakawa Yushun Village AERU Sakura Garden Cherry Blossom MAP

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(Planted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Urakawa Town and the 50th anniversary of the IRA Hidaka Training and Research Center)
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(Planted to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Hidaka Shinkin Bank)

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- 8. *Accolade*
(Planted by the Consulate-general of the People's Republic of China in Sapporo (2014))
- 9. *Accolade*
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Sargent's Cherry

1 2

Among Hokkaido's most iconic wild cherry blossom species, more than 1,000 Sargent's cherry trees line the Yushun Sakura Road near Urakawa in a spectacular display spanning three kilometers. As the flowers come into bloom, the trees' leaves also open up. The flowers' various colors include red, pink and white.

Flowering period: Late April to early May

Meaning: Exceptional beauty



Omoigawa

3

When this species was discovered in 1945 in Oyama, Tochigi Prefecture, it was named after the Omoigawa River, which flows through the area. These sturdy cherry trees produce abundant flowers with deep pink colors that make them a beloved sight in Urakawa.

Flowering period: Early to mid May (bloom continues for about 2 weeks)

Meaning: Peace of mind, independence



Yaebenishidare

4

Blooming later than the similarly-named *benishidare*, these trees have long drooping branches reaching down to the ground. Their double-flowered blossoms boast alluring deep reddish hues. Numerous *yaebenishidare* trees can be found at places such as Heian Jingu Shrine in Kyoto.

Flowering period: Mid May

Meaning: Elegance



Benishidare

5

Small, single-flowered cherry blossoms bloom in impressive fashion, with deep reddish colors. These weeping trees have a form similar to the renowned Miharu Takizakura in Fukushima Prefecture. This tree was donated to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Hidaka Shinkin Bank.

Flowering period: Early to mid May

Meaning: Mature beauty, obfuscation



Jindai-akebono

6

Bred as a replacement for Yoshino cherry trees, jindai-akebono have impressive coverings of medium-sized pale pink single flowers. This tree variety has also gained attention in recent times for its resistance to “witches brooms,” a symptom of plant diseases that severely affects cherry trees.

Flowering period: Early to mid May

Meaning: Purity, beauty of the heart



Accolade

7 8 9 10

This cherry tree variety developed in the UK is a crossbreed of Sargent’s cherry and kohigan cherry trees. Accolade trees have the longest blooming season among Urakawa’s cherry blossoms. Blooming both in spring and in fall, their spectacular displays can be enjoyed twice per year. These trees are said to have the most beautiful blossom among all of the garden’s trees.

Flowering period: Mid April to early May, October to November

Meaning: commendation



Ichiyō

18

This cherry blossom variety was cultivated on the banks of Tokyo’s Arakawa River. Pale pink when they first bloom, their flowers turn pure white over time. The name *ichiyō* means “one leaf” in Japanese. This is a reference to the single leaf-like green pistil found at the center of many of the large double flowers.

Flowering period: Early to mid May

Meaning: Spiritual fruits



Shogetsu

19

Popular in the Kanto region, *Shogetsu* is a variety of *Sato-zakura*, meaning it is descended from Oshima cherry trees. Their flowers are pale pink when they first bloom, but turn white when in full bloom. Their large double flowers are cold-resistant, and even young trees put on impressive floral displays.

Flowering period: Mid May

Meaning: Spiritual beauty



Nara-no-yae

20

This variant of *kasumi-zakura* produces relatively small flowers compared to other double-flower cherry blossoms. Opening at the same time as the red-brown leaves, they have a somewhat inconspicuous presence. This treasured cherry tree with a long history has survived thanks to diligent grafting and is the garden's latest-blooming cherry blossom.

Flowering period: Mid to late May

Meaning: Purity, beauty of the heart



Benishigure

21

This cherry tree variety was created in Matsumae in southwest Hokkaido. Its large double flowers appear relatively late in the season. The flowers bloom in two tiers, which is unusual among cherry trees. Despite not typically being resistant to low temperature, this *benishigure* tree is thriving in the cold climate of Urakawa.

Flowering period: Mid May

Meaning: Grace, intellectual education



Shirotae

22

Starting as reddish buds, the flowers turn pure white when they bloom. The light green leaves also open at the same time of year. Its double flowers each have about 10 to 20 petals.

Flowering period: Early to mid May

Meaning: Calmness, show of support



Fugenzo

23

The large, pale pink double flowers have almost indescribable beauty when in full bloom. This species' name translates as "Fugen's elephant." The two leaf-like pistils in its flowers are said to resemble the tusks of the elephant ridden by the Bodhisattva Samantabhadra, who is known as Fugen in Japanese.

Flowering period: Mid May

Meaning: Enriching education



Kanzan

11

These large purple-red flowers are an outstanding example of double-flowered cherry blossoms. Hardy in the cold, these trees are found across Hokkaido. Salt-pickled flowers from these trees are used to make *sakurayu*, an infused drink served at wedding receptions in Japan.

Flowering period: Mid May

Meaning: Elegance, good education



Sendaiya

These trees are a crossbreed of *yama-zakura* and Sargent's cherry and rosebud cherry. Their flowers have single-layer petals accented with eye-catching deep red edges. A *sendaiya* tree was found in the grounds of a store of the same name in the city of Kochi, and botanist Tomitaro Makino is believed to have given these trees their name.

Flowering period: Early to mid May

Meaning: A smile to share



Koka

13

This species was developed in Matsumae in southwest Hokkaido and is thought to be a hybrid of Sargent's cherry and *sato-zakura*, trees descended from Oshima cherry trees. Boasting large, deep reddish flowers, these trees are planted in large numbers on Honshu. They have a particularly long blooming period among cherry blossom trees, and their flowers are beloved for their blend of light and deep shades.

Flowering period: Mid May

Meaning: Makeup, a special person



Fuyu-zakura

14

These cherry trees have single flower white and pale pink blossom that blooms from October through spring. In reference to their small leaves, they are also known as *koba-zakura*, meaning "small-leaved cherry blossom." In Urakawa, these trees sometimes have a second bloom in fall.

Flowering period: Late April to early May, October to December

Meaning: Calmness



Chishima-zakura

15

This variety of cherry tree originates in Hokkaido and the Kuril Islands. Its pale pink flowers with a hint of purple feature small petals. With impressive flower coverage, *chishima-zakura* trees have a distinctive, vibrant presence.

Flowering period: Mid to late May

Meaning: Elegant femininity, beauty



Ukon-zakura

16

The double-flower cherry blossom changes from light yellow to pale pink when it blooms. These trees' upright form with numerous flowers in bloom at once make for a resplendent sight. Also known as *kizakura ukon*, meaning “yellow cherry blossom,” this is a highly-popular cherry tree variety.

Flowering period: Early to mid May

Meaning: Peace of mind



Horoyoi-shidare

17

These weeping cherry trees produce single-flower white blossoms. The name *horoyoi* means “slightly drunk” and refers to the way the flowers gradually take on a red flush. *Horoyoi-shidare* trees are sturdy and cold resistant, with firm branches that spread out horizontally.

Flowering period: Late April to early May

Meaning: Mature beauty



Curated by: Masahiro Kaneta, Arborist

Masahiro Kaneta always says that cherry blossoms in full bloom are sure to put a smile on people's faces.

As "Urakawa's Cherry Blossom Guardian," he also plays an active role in promoting the town's wonders.

