

The Japanese Red Maple in Hananoki

Japanese red maples, or *Hanakaede*, are native to Japan. Even in Japan they are rare and are said to grow only in an area with a radius of about 30 km, mainly around Mt. Ena.

This large tree in the family *Aceraceae* is about 15 m high, its branches spread about 11 m, and at eye height, the circumference of its trunk is 1.9 m.

The tree is said to have been planted in 1927 and been named after the district, Hananoki. The area where it stands is also the site of the former Ogiso Branch School. It is a treasured tree that could be described as a living monument and symbol of the local area.

Its growth is vigorous and looks spectacular in the spring when its crimson flowers bloom, and in fall when its leaves turn a burning red color.

Source: Kiso-mura no Bunkazai Meguri ("A Tour of Cultural Properties in Kiso Village")

(Published by Kiso Village Board of Education, March 25, 1986)