

## The Weeping Chestnut in Odaira

This chestnut tree (Shidareguri) stands on the grounds of Odaira Kannon-do Hall.

This large tree in the beech family is about 10.5 m high, its branches spread about 8 m, and at eye height, the circumference of its trunk is 1.6 m.

The tree has an unusual appearance, with its trunk tilting slightly west in **the shape of the Japanese character “く” (“ku”)**, three larger branches twisting upward left and right, and its medium and smaller branches hanging in a long curve.

It is said that some time between the late Edo period (1603-1867) and the early Meiji period (1868-1912), this tree was planted by local residents who were traveling back home to Kiso after working elsewhere. They had dug up a young specimen of this rather rare species from the present-day Tatsuno Town (Ono Tengu-hara, or the so-called Ono Iinuma Pass) and planted it in dedication to the local Kannon deity.

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

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