Fukushima City, a Treasure Trove of Fruit

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Fukushima City, a Treasure Trove of Fruit

The northern part of Fukushima Prefecture, which includes Fukushima City, is one of the fruit-producing areas in Japan. Taking advantage of the climate and soil typical of a basin, different kinds of fruits are produced in the city during the various seasons. In recognition of the large variety and high quality of fruit produced here, Fukushima City is known as “a treasure trove of fruit.”

A great place to enjoy a bite from whatever fruit is in season!!

Through the western part of Fukushima City runs the “Fruit Road,” fondly known by nicknames such as the “Fruit Line” and “Peach Line.” The road is lined on both sides with orchards where visitors can pick fruit and outlets selling fruit directly to buyers. Visitors can enjoy fruit-picking trips starting in June when cherries are in season, followed by peaches, pears, and grapes, up to when apples are in season, which lasts until the first part of December. During these seasons, the city becomes a favorite sightseeing spot bustling with visiting families and other tourists. Be sure to come and enjoy the taste of freshly picked fruit from one of the many orchards.

Cherries

Cherries herald the start of the fruit season in Fukushima City. The appearance of the small red berries of the cherries in June to early July signals the beginning of summer in Fukushima. Bathed in sunlight, the berries glow like red jewels on trees around the city. Fukushima cherries have the subtle, refined sweetness that is typical of Japanese cherries.

Beni-Sayaka (紅早桜)
- Early June to mid-June
- Skin color is bright to very dark red; flesh is also reddish; has a high balance of acidity and sweetness.

Takasago (高砂)
- Early June to mid-June
- Has a strong sweet flavor and a very juicy soft flesh.

Sato Nishiki (佐藤錦)
- Mid-June to late June
- A representative variety that is very popular. The berries are large, the flesh is dense and strongly sweet.

Beni-Shuho (紅秀好)
- Late June to early July
- Flesh is cream-colored and rather firm. It has low acidity but is strongly sweet.

Peaches

The peach is the representative fruit of Fukushima City. The flesh of the fruit is soft and juicy. When they reach a dark pink color after receiving ample sunlight, the ripe peaches are packed with sweetness. A great variety of peaches are produced at different times during the period between early July to late September, making peaches the typical summer fruit in Fukushima City.

Gyosei (鏡昇)
- Mid-July to late July
- A Fukushima born variety. The dense flesh has a relatively high sugar content.

Akatsuki (赤付)
- Late July to early August
- A representative Fukushima variety. The flesh is dense and strongly sweet. Has good keeping quality. It is named after the Akatsuki festival of Fukushima.

Kawanakajima Hakuto (川前島白月)
- Mid-August to early September
- Has low acidity and high sugar content. Flesh is rather firm and mealy.

Nijisseiki (二世世紀)
- Late August to early September
- Has an attractive skin color and is characterized by its refreshing sweetness and juiciness.

Akizuki (あきずき)
- Late September to mid-October
- Characterized by its low acidity and strong sweetness. It has a large diameter and is dense and juicy. It is a comparatively new variety and quite popular.

Japanese Pears

Delicious Fukushima pears are produced in orchards that make ample use of the well-drained soil in the areas at the foot of Mount Azuma-Yama. The pears grown here have the crunchy texture and juicy sweet flavor that is typical of Japanese pears.

Kosui (芳水)
- Early August to early September
- Very juicy and has a beautiful yellow color. It is characterized by its refreshing sweetness and juiciness.

Hosui (艶水)
- Mid-September to early October
- One of the most widely cultivated varieties in Fukushima City. Has the right balance of sweetness and acidity.

Nijisseiki (二世世紀)
- Late September to early October
- Has an attractive skin color and is characterized by its refreshing sweetness and juiciness.

Azumashizuku (あずましずく)
- Mid-September to late October
- Has a large diameter and is dense and juicy. It is a comparatively new variety and quite popular.

Grapes

Grapes are the flavor of fall! A wide variety of grapes with large berries are produced in Fukushima City. The grapes' berries are full of juicy sweetness. The recent introduction of a large variety of seedless grapes make Fukushima's grapes even easier to enjoy.

Kyoho (日香)
- Early September to mid-October
- A representative variety. It is strongly sweet and juicy in taste.

Taka (高尾)
- Early September to late September
- It is seedless and easy to eat with superior flavor and sweetness.

Azumashizuku (あずましずく)
- Mid-September to late October
- Has a large diameter and is dense and juicy. It is a comparatively new variety and quite popular.

Pione (ビオーネ)
- Mid-September to early October
- The berries are very large and medium to the right balance of sweetness and acidity.

Apples

Fukushima apples—ripen after experiencing the hot summer sun and differences in daytime and nighttime temperatures in autumn—are juicy with the right balance between tartness and sweetness. A wide variety of apples reach maturity at different times during the period between late summer towards the end of August and the start of winter in early December. Fukushima City’s “Sun Fuji” apples are especially popular for their honey-like sweet flavor.

Tsugaru (つがる)
- Late August to early September
- A highly colored variety, that is strongly sweet but has low acidity.

Yoko (陽光)
- Early October to late October
- A very juicy variety that is crispy and crunchy with a strong sweetness and a pleasant level of acidity.

Fuji (ふじ)
- Early November to early December
- A Fukushima born yellow green variety. It is sweet but low in acidity and has a typically refreshing flavor.

Orin (オリン)
- Late October to early November
- A Fukushima born yellow green variety. It is sweet but low in acidity and has a typically refreshing flavor.