

The simple but elegant safflower, the prefecture flower of Yamagata, has a long and rich history. Although it is too often overlooked, it has played an important role in the history of the Middle East, China, Japan, and other of the world.

From early times in Japan it is referred to in songs and poems, and it may even be said that without the benibana (Safflower), there would have been no traditional Japanese textile dyeing crafts. In writing the history of Yamagata Prefecture, it is impossible to omit the story of the Mogami benibana and its origins.

山形のベニバナ — 雪国に咲く熱砂の花

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