NEWS RELEASE

[To media representatives]
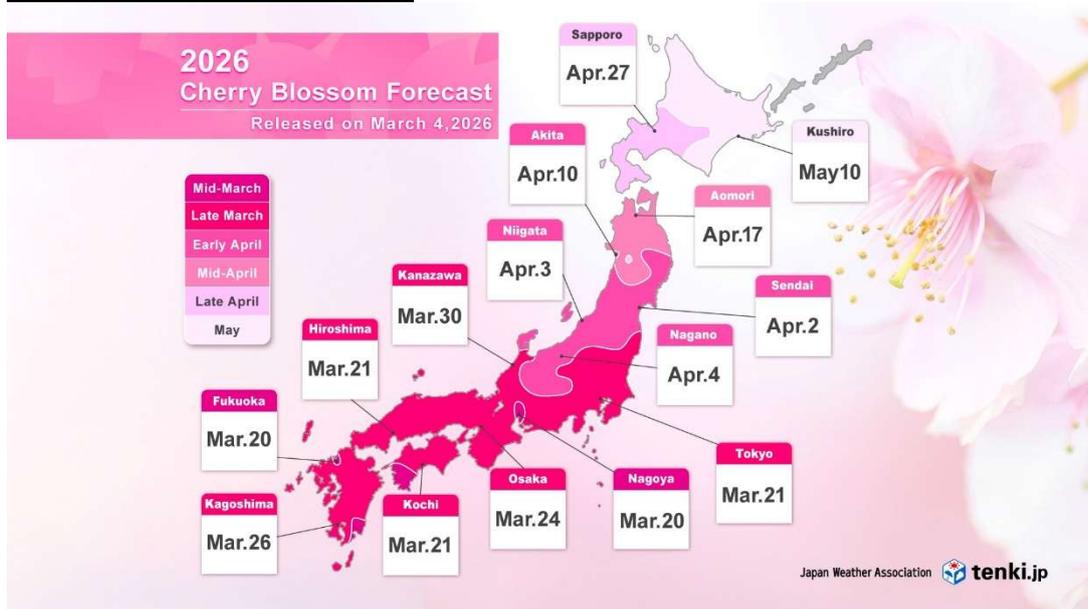
Cherry Blossom and Full Bloom Forecast for 2026 (Part 2)

<u>Two weeks until the cherry blossom arrives, with Uwajima on March 18th, followed by Fukuoka, Nagoya and Gifu on the 20th of March.</u>

Japan Weather Association (JWA) released its part 2 forecast for cherry blossoms and full bloom for 84 locations throughout Japan on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026.

Cherry Blossom Forecast Map

Bloom Forecast Dates (Major Locations)

Cherry Blossom Forecast for 2026

Released on March 4, 2026

Location		Expected bloom date	Compare to normal years	Normal bloom date	Last year's bloom date	Expected full bloom date	Compare to normal years	Normal full bloom date	Last year's full bloom date
Prefecture	City								
Hokkaido (East)	Kushiro	May 10	Earlier	May 16	May 7	May 13	Earlier	May 19	May 9
Hokkaido (Central)	Sapporo	Apr. 27	Earlier	May 1	Apr. 23	May 2	Earlier	May 6	Apr. 27
Aomori	Aomori	Apr. 17	Earlier	Apr. 22	Apr. 17	Apr. 21	Earlier	Apr. 26	Apr. 22
Miyagi	Sendai	Apr. 2	Earlier	Apr. 8	Apr. 4	Apr. 7	Earlier	Apr. 13	Apr. 10
Akita	Akita	Apr. 10	Much earlier	Apr. 17	Apr. 15	Apr. 14	Much earlier	Apr. 22	Apr. 18
Tokyo	Chiyoda	Mar. 21	Earlier	Mar. 24	Mar. 24	Mar. 28	Earlier	Mar. 31	Mar. 30
Nagano	Nagano	Apr. 4	Much earlier	Apr. 11	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Much earlier	Apr. 16	Apr. 13
Niigata	Niigata	Apr. 3	Earlier	Apr. 8	Apr. 6	Apr. 7	Earlier	Apr. 13	Apr. 9
Ishikawa	Kanazawa	Mar. 30	Earlier	Apr. 3	Mar. 29	Apr. 3	Earlier	Apr. 8	Apr. 6
Aichi	Nagoya	Mar. 20	Earlier	Mar. 24	Mar. 26	Mar. 30	Earlier	Apr. 2	Apr. 4
Osaka	Osaka	Mar. 24	Earlier	Mar. 27	Mar. 27	Apr. 2	Average	Apr. 4	Apr. 4
Hiroshima	Hiroshima	Mar. 21	Earlier	Mar. 25	Mar. 26	Mar. 31	Earlier	Apr. 3	Apr. 2
Kochi	Kochi	Mar. 21	Average	Mar. 22	Mar. 23	Mar. 29	Average	Mar. 30	Mar. 28
Fukuoka	Fukuoka	Mar. 20	Average	Mar. 22	Mar. 25	Mar. 29	Average	Mar. 31	Mar. 28
Kagoshima	Kagoshima	Mar. 26	Average	Mar. 26	Mar. 24	Apr. 6	Average	Apr. 5	Apr. 7

* The forecast for Kushiro City refers to Sargent's cherry (North Japanese hill cherry).

Japan Weather Association tenki.jp

Trend of Blossoming and Full Bloom

For the 2026 cherry blossom season, the blooming and Full bloom is expected to be around average or earlier than average in western Japan, and earlier than average in many areas of eastern and northern Japan.

The first location expected to bloom is Uwajima in Ehime Prefecture[1], with the blossoming expected to arrive on March 18th. The sample trees under observation by the local meteorological observatories in Fukuoka, Nagoya and Gifu are expected to bloom on the 20th, closely followed by the trees in Kochi, Hiroshima, Tokyo and some wider areas on the 21st of March. Osaka is expected to bloom on the 24th, Kanazawa on the 30th, and the wider area from Kyushu to Hokuriku is anticipated to bloom by the end of March.

From April, the bloom is expected to arrive in Sendai on the 2nd, and Aomori on the 17th of April, with the cherry blossom front finally reaching Sapporo on the 27th.

For Full Bloom, Uwajima is expected to reach the blooming peak first on March 25th, then among the meteorological observatories' sample trees, Tokyo is expected to reach Full Bloom on the 28th of March, with the wider areas from Kyushu to southern Tohoku reaching full bloom by early April. And then, some wider areas of Hokkaido will be able to enjoy the cherry blossoms in Full Bloom during the Golden Week holidays[2].

[1]The information for Uwajima is not from sample trees of the meteorological observatories, but from independent observation points of JWA.
[2]The 2026 Golden Week in Japan runs from April 29th to May 6th.

Basis of the Blossoming Predictions

From mid-February this year, Japan has experienced unseasonably warm weather, which likely has accelerated the cherry blossom buds' development.

Looking ahead into the second half of March, the unusual high temperatures in the latter part of February are expected to subside, with the forecast predicting temperatures around average or slightly higher than average.

For the western part of Japan and the Kanto region, the temperature for March is now expected to be lower than earlier predicted, so the flowering date has been moved approximately one day later than earlier forecasted. Meanwhile in the Tokai region, the predicted flowering date has been brought forward due to the temperatures being higher than expected in the period from February to early March.

Lastly, the forecasted temperatures for April and onwards are expected to have no significant change from the previous forecast, with temperatures expected to remain higher than average in northern Japan.

The cherry blossom and full bloom forecast for all 84 locations is available on tenki.jp, a weather forecast media site below operated by JWA.
https://tenki.jp/sakura/expectation/

Cherry Blossom Forecast
For more detailed information about JWA's Cherry Blossom Forecast, please find the link below.
https://www.jwa.or.jp/english/service/seasonal-news-cherry-blossom-forecast/

【Description of words】
Normal: Average of 1991-2020

Much earlier: 7 or more days earlier than normal
Earlier: 3 to 6 days earlier than normal
Average: within two days of the normal date
Later: 3 to 6 days later than normal

Much later: 7 or more days later than normal

Reference material
Frequently asked questions regarding cherry blossom forecast

Q1: What is the schedule for the 2026 cherry blossom forecasts releases?
A1: Here are the scheduled releases:

Part 1: January 29th (Thursday)
Part 2: March 4th (Wednesday)
Part 3: Mid-to-late March
Part 4: Early April
The release schedule may change in the future.

Q2: What are the criteria for the blooming and full bloom dates?
A2: The criteria are the same as those used by the Japan Meteorological Agency. The blooming date is defined as the first day when *five to six or more flowers* have opened on the designated observation tree (i.e. *sample tree*), and the full bloom date is the first day when more than 80% of the buds have opened on the sample trees.

Q3: How many locations are expected?
A3: Forecasts are announced for *53 locations* in January and February, and for 84 locations nationwide from March onward. The forecast locations consist of 53 sample trees observed by local meteorological observatories and 31 additional locations where observation data are obtained from cooperating organizations such as municipalities / local governments and parks.

Q4: What are the methods and characteristics of the Japan Weather Association's cherry blossom forecast?
A4: We use our proprietary forecasting model that focuses on the temperature trends from autumn onwards, which significantly influence the growth process of the cherry blossom buds. Our forecasts are based on accurate observation data from sample trees at local meteorological observatories and cooperating agencies, emphasizing meteorological principles. Japan Weather Association has been conducting cherry blossom forecasts since 2007, making this year the 20th year of our endeavour.

Q5: What data are utilised for forecasting cherry blossoms?
A5: The following data are used.
1. Temperature observation data from the previous autumn to the forecast date
2. Temperature forecast data from the forecast date to the blooming period (from Japan Weather Association's point forecasts and long-term forecasts).

The temperature from the previous autumn to spring significantly influences the cherry blossoming period. Cherry buds form during the previous summer and then enter dormancy. Exposure to a certain period of low temperatures during winter breaks this dormancy, and the buds grow and bloom with rising temperatures. It is believed that higher temperatures promote faster bud growth and earlier blooming.