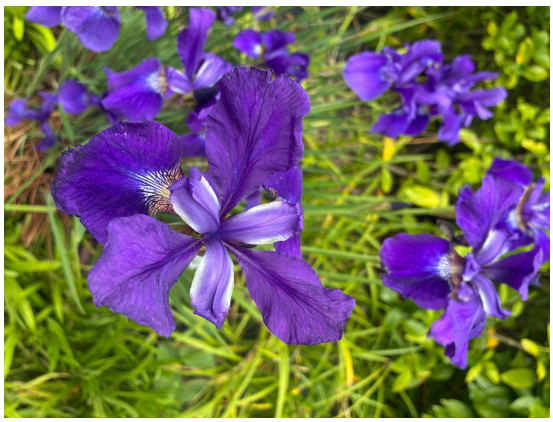
Dear JASV,

Every day I don't believe that I am in Japan. I wake up and look toward the mountains. I am always in awe of the mountains here. They look fluffy and soft, yet towering and strong. When I visit the mountains, I think of my summers that I spent as a child visiting the Adirondacks in New York and hiking.

Since April, I have noticed on my walks to school that the flowers have begun to bloom. I see red, pink, blue, white, and so much green. The air is fresh, warm, and breezy and every day it gets greener and greener. I always stop to take photos and smell the flowers. I am curious to know their names, but my Japanese friends don't know them.



Soon the rain and humidity will come. The flowers will remain, but the heat will come rushing in. The lush green growth of Japan will sprout up and become luscious. When I was a kid my mother used to tell me, “April showers bring May flowers.” Although this English saying only applies to the Western world, I always remember it and think of all the new things that will come after the rain.

From Mara Surovell, Kansai Gaidai University