

City-Designated Cultural Property (Monument/Natural Monument)

Designated on March 30, 2012

Owner: Ninomiya-jinja Shrine

Ginkgo Biloba Tree of Ninomiya-jinja Shrine

After continuing down the path from the first torii gate at the front of Ninomiya-jinja Shrine, going past the purifying water trough and ascending the stone steps, a ginkgo biloba tree stands tall next to the second torii gate at the front of the hall of worship. A male plant, the ginkgo biloba tree at Ninomiya-jinja Shrine stands 25m tall and boasts a trunk circumference of 4.71m and a leaf coverage width of 17.4m, making it one of the thickest such trees in Funabashi City as well as the city's tallest (based on measurements dating March 2011).

A member of the Ginkgoaceae family in the Ginkgo genus, Ginkgo biloba is a deciduous tall tree that originates from China. Being dioecious, both its male and female flowers blossom as its leaves unfold in the spring. In the fall, the tree's fan-shaped leaves turn a beautiful shade of yellow, and the seeds of its female plants mature.

The shrine garden contains a dense thicket consisting of camphor, cleyera, linden, cinnamon, chinquapin, laurel and other trees. The ginkgo biloba tree at Ninomiya-jinja Shrine is protected by these precious natural surroundings. As such, it is in strong physical condition and possesses considerable vigor, and boasts a clean, slender shape.

This ginkgo biloba tree can also be seen in the "Drawing of Miyama-myojinyashiro Shrine" drawn by Settei Hasegawa, which was featured as an illustration of the "Miyama-myojinyashiro Shrine" (former name of Ninomiya-jinja Shrine) in the "Record of Visits to Naritasan Temple" from the Edo period (published in 1858; written by Hidekata Seimiya; Father and Son Sadatoshi and Sadanari Nakaji Edition), indicating how the tree has been well-known among people since the Edo period. Additionally, it continues to be worshipped as a sacred tree among visitors of Ninomiya-jinja Shrine. With its dignified countenance, this ginkgo biloba tree further enhances the solemn atmosphere of the shrine garden.