



Hiiragi

ヒイラギ - 柊

Osmanthus heterophyllus
USDA 6-9

Hiiragi

The next plant that is important for Kimon and Urakimon (裏鬼門) is Hiiragi.

It's name comes from "hiragu", what means "pain". It is an old and now totally uncommon reading of the Kanji "疼". There are a lot of small spinose teeth's at the leaves of Hiiragi, that hurts when touching them.

Demons don't like pain and so they won't come near a Hiiragi bush. Because of that, it is of course also used at Setsubun.

Hiiragi is planted as a tree for crime prevention (burglars don't like Hiiragi either) and as a talisman against evil. Even now you will see a lot of homes protected by Hiiragi hedges.



Ura

裏

Ura simply means "opposite".

Setsubun

節分

Setsubun is a tradition on 3rd of February.

It is based in Muromachi period (1337-1573).

Demons and bad spirits will be driven away by throwing beans and decorate the house with hiiragi and sardine heads.



Hiiragi hedge in front of a family's house.