

Visit us on:
www.japanesegardens.jp



Ritsurin Kōen in Takamatsu
(Shikoku).
Late Edo period.

History of Japanese Gardens Part 3

The Edo Period (江戸時代)

The Meiji Period (明治時代)

The Taisho Period (大正時代)

The Showa Period (昭和時代)

The Heisei Period (平成時代)

In the last volume, we learned about the development of the karesansui and the tea gardens. Let's see how the gardens evolved during the periods listed here.

The Edo period (江戸時代)

After the battle of Sekigahara in 1600, it took three more years until Tokugawa Ieyasu became shogun and moved his government to Edo. Two years later he passed the title to his son Hidetada.

The Tokugawa shogunate had a rigorous social classification system and a strict hierarchy. The shogun was on top followed by the daimyo and samurai. Farmers, craftsmen, and merchants came next, in that order. The so-called impure had no social rank. Under the Tokugawa shogunate, the kawaramono, a group among the impure, lost their positions as gardeners, because the regime did not accept impure people to do this work. A new kind of gardener appeared, they were known as niwashi.

Kawaramono

河原者

People of the riverbanks.
Often seen as impure without
social status.