

## Weather in Japan ～ Satsuki-bare (May sunshine) ～

From April to May, dogwood, azaleas, Japanese wisteria and other flowers begin to bloom, and the fresh greenery on the trees is dazzling. This season's calm climate is possibly the best of the year. It is also the season of Golden Week, and a time that is packed with outdoor activities such as leisurely outings. Weather updates also give us information before taking excursions.

*Satsuki-bare*, meaning “May sunshine,” is when you look up and see a cloudless blue sky. There is a lot of debate about whether *Satsuki-bare* refers to the sunny weather of May or of June. According to the terminology used by the Meteorological Agency in their weather forecasts, it means “the fair weather of May.” It originally comes from the word “*Satsuki*,” meaning May in the lunar calendar, and referred to sunny days during the rainy season. The *Satsuki-bare* bright blue sky of May also lifts our hearts and leads to feelings of contentment.

## にほん きしやう 日本の気象 ば ～ 『さつき晴れ』 ～

4月から5月にかけては、ハナミズキ・ツツジ・フジ等の花が咲き始め、木々の新緑もまばゆいくらいになります。気候は穏やかで一年中で最もいい季節です。ゴールデンウィークもあり、行楽などのお出かけで、屋外の活動も活発になります。気象情報では、お出かけ情報も知らせてくれます。

見上げてみると、雲一つない真っ青な空、さつき晴れです。『さつき晴れ』は5月の晴れ間のことか、6月の晴れ間のことか、よく議論になります。気象庁が天気予報等で用いている予報用語では、「5月の晴天。本来は旧暦の五月（さつき）からきたことばで、梅雨の合間の晴れのことを指していた」とのことです。5月の抜けるような青空の五月晴れは、心も晴れます。