PREFACE

The Japanese Society for Horticultural Science (JSHS) was established in Tokyo in 1923 by 75 enthusiasts with a shared interest in advancing research and technology in horticulture. In 2023, JSHS held the 4th Asian Horticultural Congress (AHC2023) and the centennial commemoration ceremony concurrently in Tokyo. Reflecting on the hundred-year history of JSHS, the society launched its journal in 1925 to disseminate the latest information in horticultural science and has since made significant contributions to both horticultural science and industry.

JSHS hosted the 24th International Horticultural Congress (IHC) for the first time in the Asian region in 1994 with the aim of making international contributions. The first edition of "Horticulture in Japan" was published to coincide with this event to introduce horticultural production, industries, and technologies in Japan to the world. In 2006, "Horticulture in Japan" underwent revision for distribution during the 27th ISHS held in Seoul, Korea. As part of our centennial commemorative initiatives, we have decided to extensively revise and publish "Horticulture in Japan" by the time of the 32nd IHC, which will be hosted once again by JSHS in Kyoto in 2026, given the significant changes that have occurred in the environment surrounding the horticultural industry.

As this edition of "Horticulture in Japan" is being released after a gap of 20 years since the last revision, there have been changes in the primary cultivated varieties, cultivation techniques, and/or main production areas for certain horticultural crops. On the other hand, other horticultural crops have continued to be cultivated as in the same manner as they were 20 years ago. Consequently, the Japanese horticultural scene flourishes with remarkable diversity, aligning perfectly with the main theme of IHC2026, "Exploring the Diversity of Horticulture".

In the future, it is anticipated that horticultural production, industry, and science will further diversify. Genomic science and molecular biology have made remarkable progress, leading to the utilization of genetic engineering and gene editing technologies in the improvement of horticultural crop varieties. Additionally, with the remarkable advancements in computer science, technologies such as image analysis and artificial intelligence are expected to be increasingly incorporated into horticultural production in the very near future.

Through the revision of "Horticulture in Japan" this time, we hope to communicate the current state of Japan's horticultural industry to the world, further contributing to the advancement of the global horticultural industry and science.

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