# **Japanese Rainy season “Tsuyu”in June**

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Every year in June the rainy season begins in Japan.

Most people don’t like this season because it is humid, gloomy, and unpleasant season.

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However, look around, there are typical rainy season flowers like Hydrangea, and Iris. Their figures in rain are lively and well worth seeing. It’s a pity to see them without rain. Moisty atmospheric will be most suitable for them.

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For children, the rainy season is not popular as they have to stay home. But they have fantastic ideas. During long incessant rain, they used to make a handmade paper doll named “Teru Teru Bozu” so as to change the rainy day to fine weather day, especially before a pleasant events,

such as sports day and excursion.

Also they tried to forecast the next day’s weather by hurling their wooden sandal “Geta”. If Geta shows a face the weather will be fine, though if it shows sole, it’ll be a bad one. Nowadays no children wear Geta except when we have festival and wear“Yukata”, or simple Kimoto.

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Look at a lot of rice dishes. It varies from“Gohan”or cooking white rice to sushi,“Onigiri”or rice ball, curry rice,“Sekihan”or auspicious white rice with red beans,“Mochi”the pounded rice, and rice crackers.

Have you ever enjoyed them? Now I want to show you how the rice has a strong tie with rainy season.

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Read as is written on the screen･･･. Let’s move to the rice planting.

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Once, the rice planting“Taue”had been done by the group of neighbors

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But at present this labor-intensive work style has dramatically changed.

Changed into a rice planting machine, operated by only one person.

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You may see the rice fields are filled with quantity of water. This shows the importance of“Tsuyu”the rainy season, which brings the abundant water.

The rice plants continue to grow up from rainy June to harvest autumn, thanks to the ceaseless supply of the water since the rainy season.

Look at their steady growing!

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“Inaho”the rice ears are all out

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Please have a look at two pictures.

**Left,** the expanse of green rice fields in early July. It will be the first scene Torrance delegation will see before landing the airport.

**Right**, rice ears are standing in golden waves. This is a moving and powerful scene, telling the accomplishment of rice farming which was enabled by“Tsuyu”, or Japanese rainy season.

The rainy season,“Tsuyu”, is very important here in Japan.

Thank you for listening. Do you have any questions?