

The earliest taste of spring in Japan

## **Bamboo Shoots**



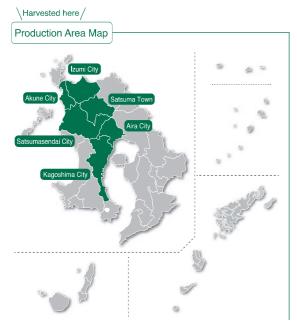
What kind of ingredient is it? Highlights

Bamboo shoots, known as a spring delicacy, are typically harvested around April. However, in Kagoshima Prefecture harvesting begins as early as mid-October, making it the earliest in Japan. Those harvested in the period through to the following March, known as "early-dug bamboo shoots", are particularly rare. They are taken from Moso bamboo before shoots emerge above ground, are about 15 cm long and golden, do not need to be treated for bitterness, and have a sweet flavor allowing them to be enjoyed as sashimi after simply boiling.

Why it's Special Column

Bamboo shoots are a low-calorie spring ingredient rich in protein and dietary fiber. They are high in insoluble dietary fiber (cellulose), which helps eliminate waste and toxins from the intestines and may inhibit cholesterol absorption. They also contain significant potassium, which is largely retained after boiling, making them effective for preventing high blood

Grown in an area blessed with an ideal climate and soil, Kagoshima's bamboo shoots are noted for their tender texture and rich flavor, making them excellent in a wide range of dishes.





Kagoshima Forest Products A delicacy of the forest

# **Log-Grown Shiitake**



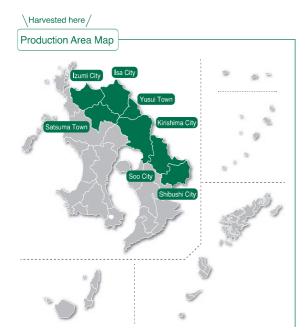




### What kind of ingredient is it? Highlights

Kagoshima's log-grown shiitake are cultivated by inoculate oak logs such as sawtooth or jolcham oak with mushroom spawn, without using fertilizers or pesticides. The shiitake are then grown slowly for 1.5 to 2 years on the logs' natural nutrients in the forest.

Nurtured by Kagoshima's nature, these shiitake offer exceptional taste, aroma, and texture. They truly are a delicacy of the forest.





# Why it's Special Column

Log-grown shiitake are low in calories yet rich in nutrients and dietary fiber.

As well as eaten fresh, drying increases nutrients like vitamin D, which promotes calcium absorption, and rehydration produces abundant guanylic acid; one of the three main components of umami. Kagoshima log-grown shiitake combine exceptional flavor and nutrition, making them a superb ingredient.

#### Contact

 Kagoshima Prefecture Shiitake Agricultural Cooperative TEL0995-42-5779 Kagoshima Forest Products

Thick with a plump, springy texture!

## **Wood Ear Mushrooms**

When is it delicious? /
Seasonal
Calendar

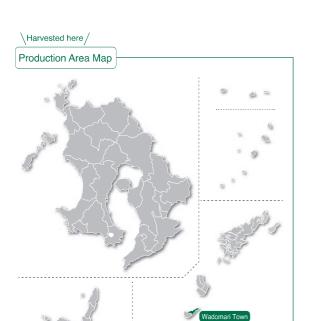






### What kind of ingredient is it? Highlights

Wood ear mushrooms from Okinoerabu use the native Arage Kikurage strain and are cultivated on beds of naturally fermented bagasse, the mineral-rich residue from sugarcane pressing. The high nutritional value of bagasse beds results in mushrooms that are nutrient-rich and thick.





Why it's Special Column

There are three main varieties of wood ear mushrooms: kikurage, shirokikurage (white ear fungus), and aragekikurage. Of these, the first two are mostly imported from overseas, while aragekikurage is also cultivated domestically. Among the three, aragekikurage contains the highest levels of dietary fiber and vitamin D. It is thicker and has a pleasantly firm, springy texture compared to ordinary kikurage. Because it readily absorbs flavors without overpowering the taste or aroma of other ingredients, aragekikurage blends naturally into a wide range of dishes, making it a versatile ingredient.

#### Contact

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## Related Websites

Nangoku Kinokoen Co., Ltd.

