

## **Case of the Japan Flora 2001 Site, Restoration of Greenery on the Bedrock Slope**

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Hyogo Prefecture implemented an undertaking to restore greenery on a nearly 12-hectare slope for a short period. This large slope was created through the removal of 100 million cubic meter soil to reclaim land off the coast of the Hanshin area. The slope became a venue for the International Gardening and Landscaping Exhibition, "Japan Flora 2000." Hyogo Prefecture undertook this restorative project from April 1994 until March 2001, and succeeded in realizing a landscape rich with greenery, forming a beautiful backdrop for the colorful flowers of the exhibition.

The unprecedented large-scale project began with the formulation of the "Greenification Program," which is based on a collection of ideas contributed by Hyogo Prefecture, specialists and those locally involved in related businesses. Aside from the Program, the adaptability of individual plant species was assessed and confirmed on the project site for their introduction in the local environment. Future changes in vegetation have also been estimated. As the project site is located approximately 400 meters from the coast and can be affected by winds from the sea, countermeasures have been taken. Due to its inclined geographical features, the bed of trees was considered to be susceptible to sunlight, winds, and little rainfall. For this reason, measures were devised to prevent soil from drying. Furthermore, consideration was given to the minimal required thickness of the tree bed as well as simple maintenance in pursuit of cost effectiveness. The bed of trees was constructed by employing a highly aggregated vegetation bed spraying method, combined with the replaced topsoil and honeycomb-shaped geo-textile frames. Trees were planted in such a high density that three or four seedlings that were one or two year-old and thirty centimeter long were configured in each square meter of the bed. The bed was completely covered with mulch and equipped with an automatic irrigation facility.

Consequently, trees planted in the project site grew at a high pace well beyond initial estimation and were fused together with the other trees in their surroundings on the opening of "Japan Flora 2000." The restorative undertaking resulted in a great success, making it possible to create a landscape that appears to be naturally evolved.