

Tadahiko Yamano – A Short Biography

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Who was Tadahiko Yamano?

Tadahiko Yamano was a famous Japanese arborist, botanist, and tree doctor. He was born on 25 June 1900 in Osaka, Japan. He became well known for saving old and famous trees across Japan. Many people believe he was the first person in Japan to call himself an “arborist”, meaning a person who studies and cares for trees.

Early Life

Yamano had a difficult childhood. His mother died soon after his birth. Later, he was adopted by a businessman named Ushimatsu Yamano. When he was very young, he moved to Korea with his family.

He later joined Chuo University in Japan, but he dropped out before completing his studies. After this, he worked in forestry and business in Korea.

Love for Trees

While living in Korea, Yamano became interested in planting trees and managing forests. He once planted around 1,000 cherry trees in an area that often faced heavy rains. This experience increased his love for nature and trees.

After World War II, he lost all his property and returned to Japan. Seeing the damaged forests and barren mountains made him very sad. At the age of 48, he decided to dedicate his life to saving trees.

Work as a Tree Doctor

Yamano worked in park management in Osaka City and carefully studied tree treatment methods. He developed special techniques to heal weak and damaged trees.

He travelled all over Japan treating ancient and famous trees. By 1988, he had treated more than 1,200 trees. Some famous trees he saved were:

- The “Kumano Nagafuji” in Shizuoka Prefecture
- The pine tree at Horyuji Temple in Nara

Because of his great work, he became famous as Japan’s “Tree Doctor”.

Awards and Writings

In 1988, Tadahiko Yamano received the **Eiji Yoshikawa Cultural Award** for his contribution to nature and tree care.

He also wrote books about trees and nature. One of his well-known works is *I Can Hear the Voice of Wood*.

Death

Tadahiko Yamano passed away on 25 September 1998 at the age of 98. He is remembered as a man who devoted his life to protecting trees and preserving nature for future generations.