



# SEIJUN NISHIHATA

JAPAN

Seijun Nishihata searches the world over to bring wildness and beauty—and the world's largest Christmas tree—back to Japan.

Seijun Nishihata was born into plants. He represents the fifth generation of a legendary family operated Japanese plant and flower importer. The 150-year-old wholesaler is renowned for their flower selection, providing pristine stems to ikebana masters in Hyōgo Prefecture and beyond. Nishihata grew up among plants and flowers and yet he was, by his own admission, “never so into it.”

That is, until he met the *Nepenthes rajah*—a giant carnivorous pitcher plant he encountered on a hike up Mount Kinabalu on a trip to Borneo for his twenty-first birthday. “It was a life-changing experience, and I was very much fascinated by the encounter with the plant. Ever since then I can’t stop thinking about plants,” Nishihata shared.

What was an initial fascination has blossomed into a full-scale love affair. Since his first run-in with the pitcher plant, Nishihata has dedicated his life to seeking rare and unusual plants and flowers for clients the world over and bringing them all back to Japan in staggering quantities—on average over 250 tons of plants each year. With his team and company, Sora Botanical Garden Project, Nishihata works with designers, architects, governments, and commercial clients to track down enigmatic plant life to perfectly suit each client’s needs and the demands of a project—be it a bottle tree imported from Australia, or a palo borracho (silk floss tree) from South America. His imports often require a combination of engineering and horticultural skills—his work includes designing special shipping containers that ensure the precious life contained within arrives safely at its destination.



Seijun Nishihata is a self-described plant-hunter. In his practice, he locates plants for clients and public installations from all corners of the world to bring back to his native Japan.