

OCHIAI' S TEA PICKERS / TWIG CUTTERS / HEDGE TRIMMERS

OCHIAI CUTLERY MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

58, Nishikata, Kikugawa-City, Shizuoka-Ken, Japan

TEL: 0537-36-2161 FAX: 0537-35-4643

URL <http://www.ochiai-1.co.jp> Email tokuhan@ochiai-1.co.jp

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2015 AUTUMN TEA FINISHES PLUCKING



From the end of Sept., autumn tea plucking started in Shizuoka prefecture. Japan has basically 4 tea seasons and pluck only 3 of them;
1st flush: end of April to beginning of May

2nd flush: June

3rd flush: August

4th flush: end of September to beginning of October

Among those 4 seasons, farmers do not harvest 3rd flush. Due to tea pricing decreasing these years, harvesting and processing 3rd flush cost more than their income by selling them. Hence, by NOT harvesting 3rd flush, with little trimming, they leave the shoots growing until the 4th flush season to gain more weight.

As most people know, the best quality and pricing come from the 1st flush. As

season goes on, yield increases but the price decreases. 4th flush can be harvested about 800kg/ha (varies from one garden to another) but the price is about one third of the 1st flush.

Here are some photos of 4th tea harvesting from our neighborhood. It might be interesting comparing these gardens to your own tea estates.

