



# THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM



Friday, February 5, 2003

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## *Deutzia gracilis*



### 'Nikko'

*Deutzia gracilis* 'Nikko' is an outstanding low-growing flowering shrub introduced by the National Arboretum. Well suited for small spaces or used as a groundcover, its fine-textured, compact growth habit and profuse, brilliant white blossoms distinguish 'Nikko' as an elite plant for any garden. 'Nikko' will spread to 5 feet in 10 years. Its gently arching branches are covered by flowers in late April and early May. Highly effective in containers or cascading over a low wall.

**Recognition:** The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal Award, 1989.





## 'Nikko' Slender Deutzia

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- Botanical Name:** *Deutzia gracilis* 'Nikko'  
(NA 41040)
- Family:** Saxifragaceae
- Hardiness:** U.S.D.A. Zones 5-8
- Development:** 'Nikko' was selected for its horticultural merit under the name *Deutzia nakaiana* from Watanabe Nursery, Gotemba City, Japan in 1976 by former USNA director John L. Creech and Chief Horticulturist Sylvester G. March. In the 1980's the nomenclature was changed to *D. crenata* var. *nakaiana*. USNA taxonomist Frederick G. Meyer and Roy Davidson, Bellevue, WA later determined this plant to be a variant of *D. gracilis*, the slender deutzia. The cultivar name 'Nikko' appears to have been coined by British nurseryman C.G. Hollett of Greenbank Nursery, Cumbria, England in 1976-77. Introduced in the late 1980's.
- Significance:** Compact, low growing habit is highly desirable and a significant improvement over the leggy habit of other deutzia varieties. Considered one of the best deutzia cultivars.
- Description:** **Height and Width:** 2 feet tall and spreading to 5 feet in 10 years.  
**Habit:** Deciduous, low-growing flowering shrub. Gently arching branches.  
**Foliage:** Fine-textured, light green, willow-like leaves turn a deep burgundy in autumn.  
**Flowers:** Profuse panicles of small, pure white flowers 1/8 to 1/4 inch long in late April to early May. Effective for 1-2 weeks.
- Culture:** Tolerates many soil types, pH and light conditions. Flowers more profusely in full sun with abundant moisture. Benefits from light afternoon shade in areas with high temperatures.
- Propagation:** Roots easily by natural layering or softwood cuttings under mist, 1000 - 3000 ppm IBA, in 4-6 weeks.
- Landscape Use:** Excellent deciduous flowering groundcover for rock garden or perennial border. Spectacular flowering container plant. Well suited to the small garden.
- Availability:** Readily available from mail-order firms and retail and wholesale nurseries.

### U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction

Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

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