
Deutzia gracilis ‘Nikko’



Deutzia gracilis ‘Nikko’ is an outstanding, low-growing, flowering shrub introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum. Well-suited for small spaces or for use 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 five feet wide in 10 years. Its gently arching branches are covered by flowers in late April and early May, with occasional flowers later. Highly effective in containers or cascading over a low wall.

Winner of a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal Plant Award, 1989.



U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

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‘Nikko’ slender deutzia

Botanical name:	<i>Deutzia gracilis</i> Siebold & Zucc. ‘Nikko’ (NA 41040)
Family:	Hydrangeaceae
Hardiness:	USDA Zones 5–8
Development:	‘Nikko’ was selected for its horticultural merit under the name <i>Deutzia nakaiana</i> at Watanabe Nursery in 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 <i>D. crenata</i> var. <i>nakaiana</i> . USNA taxonomist Frederick G. Meyer and Roy Davidson, Bellevue, WA later determined this plant to be a variant of <i>D. gracilis</i> , 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 1980s.
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: Two feet tall and spreading to five 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 when exposed to sunlight. Flowers: Profuse panicles of small (1/8-inch to 1/4-inch long), pure white flowers in late April to early May. Effective for one to two weeks.
Culture:	Tolerates many soil types, soil pH, and light conditions. Flowers more profusely in full sun with abundant moisture. Benefits from light afternoon shade in areas with high summer temperatures.
Propagation:	Roots easily by natural layering or softwood cuttings under mist, 1000-3000 ppm IBA, in four to six 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.

