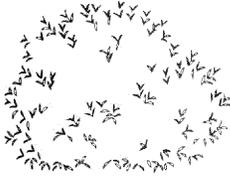


Deutzia gracilis - Slender Deutzia (*Saxifragaceae*)

Deutzia gracilis is a compact shrub with showy white flowers in May and fine texture in foliage or when bare.

FEATURES

Form



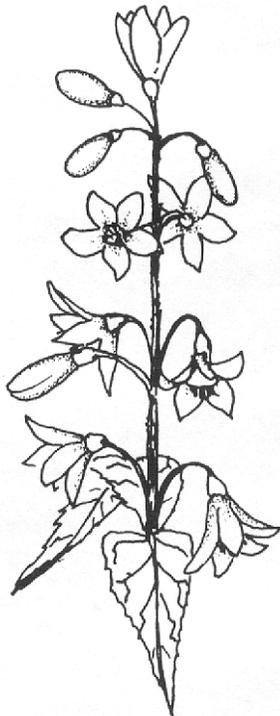
- small shrub
 - 2' tall x 3' wide
 - spreading oval (with the oval on its side), sometimes irregular
 - slow rate
- Culture**
- full sun to partial

shade

- adaptable to soils pHs, drought, and pruning
- should remove one-third of the stems every year after flowering for invigoration, or prune to the ground every third year after flowering
- every spring it needs to have dead stems removed due to winter dieback

Foliage

- opposite, medium green
- deciduous
- lanceolate
- serrations raised above the plane of the leaves
- slightly rough on the upper leaf surface
- short petiole
- autumn color yellowish green to orange-red, ineffective



Flowers

- white
- early May
- erect 3" inflorescences of about 5 flowers each
- effective for 2 weeks
- rather showy

Fruits

- small green-brown capsule
- inconspicuous

Twigs

- exfoliating tan to gray
- buds brown-gray to silver but small

Trunk

- not applicable

USAGE

Function

- borders, facers, foundations, and mass plantings

Texture

- fine texture in foliage and when bare
- average density in foliage but thick when bare

Assets

- good spring flowers effective for up to 2 weeks
- fine texture in foliage or when bare
- compact habit

Liabilities

- poor autumn color
- terminal branch winter dieback
- needs full sun for best flowers
- looks ragged in winter
- slow growth

Habitat

- Zones 4 to 8
- Native to Japan

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- compact shrubs with attractive flowers (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird', *Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet', *Rhododendron* [mostly Azaleas], *Viburnum plicatum* 'Newport' ['Nanum Newport'], etc.)
- fine-textured small shrubs (*Forsythia viridissima* 'Bronxensis', *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star', *Picea abies* 'Pumila', *Spiraea x bumalda*, etc.)
- facers shrubs (*Berberis thunbergii* var. *atropurpurea* 'Crimson Pygmy', *Cotoneaster apiculatus*, *Philadelphus* 'Miniature Snowflake', *Picea abies* 'Nidiformis', *Viburnum opulus* 'Nanum', etc.)

Cultivars – Variants – Related species

- Deutzia gracilis* 'Nikko' - similar to species except for a slightly more compact habit and burgundy autumn foliage
- cultivar of choice