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.)
- facer 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