

# DEUTZIA

John Frett and Andrew Adams

*Deutzia* is a large genus with more than 60 species and even more cultivars. It is a group of plants that is grown widely in the US, Europe and Asia primarily for its flowers. It has been popular in the US since its use in Victorian gardens, but the *deutzia* of today is nothing like that of days gone by. Old-fashioned *Deutzia* were more commonly large, 6-12 feet tall, upright shrubs frequently with vase shape or arching habit. These plants were stunning with typically white flowers in the spring garden, then fading into the background during the summer and fall. Fruits are a dry capsule of little ornamental or wildlife value and foliage becoming a dirty yellow before dropping in the autumn. They were useful plants in larger gardens and shrub borders where they could be combined with other shrubs to provide year-round interest.



*Deutzia* 'Magicien'  
Photo: Andrew Adams

The traditional *Deutzia* are still very useful in today's shrub borders where their spring flowers illuminate the garden, but breeding, hybridization and selection have opened many more opportunities to use these easily grown, pest-free plants in today's garden.



*Deutzia xlemoinei* 'Compacta'  
Photo: Andrew Adams



*Deutzia gracilis* 'Duncan'  
Photo: Andrew Adams



*Deutzia* 'Mont Rose'  
Photo: Andrew Adams



*Deutzia xkalmiflora*  
Photo: Andrew Adams

Most of today's popular *Deutzia* are smaller and more compact. Several of the selections offered in the sale grow 1-2 feet tall and wide, functioning more as a groundcover than an individual shrub. These plants are best planted in groups and are especially suitable for slopes. They are even small enough to be integrated into the perennial border but do not cut them back in the fall as these shrubs flower in the spring. This means they flower on last year's stems. If you want to tidy up these compact plants, cut them to the ground after flowering and they will regrow and produce flowers the following spring.

*Deutzia* flowers occur terminally and laterally on the stems in the spring to early summer. Most are formed in upright pyramidal clusters from 1-6 inches long but some species form broader, flat-topped clusters. The pure white flower buds open to pristine white, bell-shaped flowers, sometimes with a mild fragrance. More recent introductions broaden the color



*Deutzia xrosea* 'NCDX2'  
Photo: Andrew Adams



*Deutzia xrosea* 'NCDX1'  
Photo: Andrew Adams



*Deutzia gracilis* 'Nikko'  
Photo: Melinda Zoehrer



*Deutzia scabra* 'Variegata'  
Photo: Andrew Adams



*Deutzia setchuenensis* var. *corymbiflora*  
Photo: Andrew Adams

palette to include pink flowers on short compact plants, like *Deutzia* 'NCDX2' Yuki Cherry Blossom®. Some selections like *Deutzia* 'Magicien' have deep colored fuchsia-purple flowers that are quite dramatic.

Foliage of *Deutzia* is clean and pest free and the plants are truly low maintenance. Some cultivars offer colorful summer display via their foliage. *Deutzia* 'Duncan' Chardonnay Pearls® has attractive chartreuse foliage while *Deutzia scabra* 'Variegata' has green foliage with white splashes. Other cultivars have green summer foliage that turns purple burgundy in the fall.

Culturally *Deutzia* is very adaptable. Plants prefer full sun for best flower production, although will grow in part shade,

particularly plants with colored summer foliage. Moist soils are preferred but again plants are not particular. Avoid wet soil. Once established, plants are self-reliant, with no significant disease or insect problems. Larger plants may require selective removal of older stems to keep them looking neat, while dwarf selections may benefit from occasional cutbacks. Always prune soon after flowering since plants flower on the winter stems.

*Deutzia* is a very easily grown group of plants that merits the title of low maintenance. Their spring flower display compares to any shrub and the compact cultivars can be slipped into any garden, large or small. It's not a question of whether to buy a *Deutzia* but a question of how many.

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size, Plant Size	Price
<i>Deutzia</i> 'Magicien'						
Upright Deutzia		6-8	☉●☁☔		3 g, 1-2	\$35
Small bell-shaped fuchsia-colored flowers with white edging from mid to late spring. Burgundy fall foliage. Upright, spreading shrub best as hedge, screen or mass planting.						
<i>Deutzia</i> 'Mont Rose' Hybrid Deutzia		3-4	☉●☁☔		1 g, 1-2	\$25
Blossoms in June compared to mid to late May for other cultivars. Flowers are a rose pink with yellow anthers on arching branches. Cross between <i>D. discolor</i> and <i>D. longifolia</i> made by Lemoine in Nancy, France around 1925, but not so readily available in the trade. <b>PATRON EVENING ONLY</b>						
<i>Deutzia</i> 'Monzia'						
Hybrid Deutzia		5-7	☉●☁☔		1 g, 1-2	\$25
A prolific number of light to deep pink flowers with white bases line the arching branches in late spring. Older bark displays exfoliating red-brown bark; burgundy fall color.						
<i>Deutzia</i> × <i>kalmii</i> <i>flora</i>						
Kalmia Flowered Deutzia		4-6	☉●☁☔		1 g, 1	\$25
Upright arching shrub, this hybrid of <i>D. purpurescens</i> and <i>D. parviflora</i> exhibits white flowers with broad pink stripes on the back of the petals, forming star-shaped clusters along stems. Purple fall foliage.						
<i>Deutzia</i> × <i>lemoinei</i> 'Compacta'						
Lemoine's Deutzia		3-4	☉●☁☔		1 g, 1	\$25
Upright, compact form, this plant gets as wide as it is tall. Showy white flowers cover the branches in late spring, perfect for mass plantings or creating a low, dense hedge.						
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i> 'Duncan'						
Chardonnay Pearls® Deutzia		2-3	☉●☁☔		3 g, 1-2	\$35
Prolific white flowers in spring are stunning contrast to emerging chartreuse leaves. The bright yellow leaves remain until frost. Dwarf habit makes it excellent groundcover.						

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size, Plant Size	Price
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i> 'Nikko'						
Dwarf Deutzia		2	☉●☁☔		3 g, 1	\$35
Compact, arching habit useful when planted in masses or as a foundation planting; very drought tolerant. White flowers clothe plant in spring.						
<i>Deutzia</i> × <i>rosea</i> 'NCDX1'						
Yuki Snowflake®		1-2	☉●☁☔		3 g, 1-2	\$35
Dwarf cultivar with extra-heavy blooming white flowers in spring with a low spreading, mounded habit.						
<i>Deutzia</i> × <i>rosea</i> 'NCDX2'						
Yuki Cherry Blossom™ Dwarf Deutzia		1-2	☉●☁☔		3 g, 1	\$35
Dwarf cultivar with a low spreading habit like 'Nikko' but with pink flowers in spring. Great as a groundcover, shrub mass, or for use in the mixed border.						
<i>Deutzia scabra</i> 'Variegata'						
Variegated Fuzzy Deutzia		6-8	☉●☁☔		1 g, 1-2	\$25
Faintly scented white flowers grace branches in spring. Striking, white-splashed variegated foliage on large blowsy shrub. Works best as a background screen or in mixed border.						
<i>Deutzia setchuenensis</i> var. <i>corymbiflora</i>						
Corymbose Deutzia		5-6	☉●☁☔		1 g, 1-2	\$25
Upright-rounded shrub with showy, large white flowers in flat-topped clusters. Exfoliating bark and toothed leaves as plant matures. Leaves are nearly double the size compared to straight species. <b>PATRON EVENING ONLY</b>						

*Foliage of Deutzia is clean and pest free and the plants are truly low maintenance.*