

Unohana Garden

This garden is filled with *Deutzia crenata*, a flowering shrub in the hydrangea family which is native to Japan. The delicate white flowers bloom in May and June and are a common sight in the mountainous countryside, but rarely found in urban areas like Osaka.

In Japanese, the plant is called *unohana*, or “rabbit flower,” as its blooming season coincides with the month of the rabbit in the ancient Chinese calendar. *Unohana* are associated with Sumiyoshi because, according to legend, the shrine was founded on the day, month, and year of the rabbit more than 1,800 years ago. *Deutzia crenata* branches are used in ritual offerings at Sumiyoshi in place of *sakaki* (*Cleyera japonica*) branches, which are more commonly used at other Shinto shrines.

Unohana Garden contains 25 varieties of *Deutzia crenata* and related species. It is open to the public when the flowers are in bloom.