

Bouncingbet

Saponaria officinalis

Description

Seeds are toxic, containing large amounts of saponins, which froth when extracted with water. Leaves contain a natural soap.

Habit

Herbaceous, 1-3 ft tall, grows from rhizomes, short, coarse, almost woody rhizomes.

Leaves

Opposite, elliptic leaves; 3-4 in long and 1/2 to 1-1/2 in wide at the middle, toothed.

Stems

Erect and jointed; unbranched.

Flowers

Clustered, cylindrical sepals, 5-6 petals notched at the apex, white to pink in color; blooms from June through September.

Fruits and Seeds

Seed pod, 1 in long and 1/4 in thick containing many somewhat round black seeds. The seeds





have minute bumps on the surface.

Habitat

Native to Europe and Asia. Found along roadsides, waste places, open unused areas.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Cowcockle (*Saponaria vaccaria*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling for small infestations; use of broadleaf herbicides.

Credits

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