

# **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.

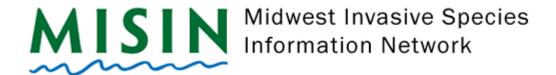
#### **Flowers**

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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