



SOAPWORT

SAPONARIA OFFICINALIS

THE PRETTINESS OF THIS EVERGREEN PERENNIAL BELIES ITS USEFULNESS. LONG USED TO MAKE SOMETHING AS MUNDANE AS SOAP, THE ROOTS OF THIS CARNATION RELATIVE CONTAIN SAPONIN AND CAN BE GROUND TO MAKE AN EFFECTIVE DETERGENT. A TOUGH PLANT, IT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO NATURALIZE WHERE THE CONDITIONS SUIT IT. SPREADS VIA UNDERGROUND RHIZOMES, FORMING A BIGGER PATCH EACH SEASON. EASILY GROWN IN A VARIETY OF SOILS AND WATERING REGIMES, IT REACHES 1-2' TALL AND HAS A LONG BLOOMING PERIOD. THE LOVELY PINK TO WHITE BLOSSOMS ATTRACT MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES, WHILE THE SAPONINS IN THE PLANT MAKE IT UNPLEASANT BROWSE FOR DEER AND OTHER MAMMALS.

ZONES 3-9

MOSTLY SUN TO PART SHADE

