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Rock Soapwort
Saponaria ocymoides

Height: 6 inches
Spread: 18 inches
Spacing: 15 inches
Sunlight: ☉
Hardiness Zone: 2

Description:

Profusion of pink flowers cover bright green oval leaves on vigorous, trailing stems. Deadhead to prevent self sowing.

Ornamental Features

Rock Soapwort is smothered in stunning pink flowers at the ends of the stems from mid to late spring, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds. Its round leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Rock Soapwort is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

Rock Soapwort is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Rock Soapwort in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Rock Soapwort flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Rock Soapwort will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Rock Soapwort is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.