

## Saponaria x lempergii 'Max Frei' Max Frei Soapwort

Saponaria x lempergii 'Max Frei' (Max Frei Soapwort) is a full-bodied, clump-forming, perennial derived from Mediterranean species that makes for an interesting groundcover in small areas. The narrow, medium green foliage emerges in spring. Bright to blush pink, 5-petaled flowers appear in abundance from July to September, completely obscuring the foliage below to create mounds of blooms. When in bloom, this short-statured plant only reaches roughly 1.5' tall and 1.5' wide, making it a compact, floriferous edge plant for a mixed border or rock garden. Thrives in the well-drained soil conditions of rock gardens and raised beds in full sun to light shade. Attracts pollinators and is rarely browsed by mammals.

**Botanical Name:** Saponaria x lempergii 'Max Frei'

**Common Name:** Max Frei Soapwort

**Family:** Caryophyllaceae

**Nativity:** Not Native to US

**USDA Zone:** 3 to 7

**Light Type:** Full Sun, Light Shade

**Soil Type:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Preferences:** Well-drained soil; sandy-loam preferred

**Soil Moisture:** Dry

**Typical height (ft):** 0.5-1.5'

**Typical width (ft):** 1-1.5'

**Foliage:** Medium green

**Bloom Time:** July, August, September

**Bloom:** Blush pink, in varied shades across flowers

**Ecological features:** Floral resources for long-tongued bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

**Tolerance of:** Deer, Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil, Salt

**Additional notes:** Tolerates occasional foot traffic; does not tolerate division or transplanting once established; less tolerant of high summer heat, humidity and poorly-drained soils than other species in the genus

**Companion plants:** Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), Greater Snowdrop (*Galanthus elwesii*), Petrified Showy Stonecrop (*Sedum 'Petrified'*), Iris, Geraniums, Phlox, Coreopsis

**For more information see:**

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=i810>

<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/perennial-plants/unique-plants/saponaria-lempergii-max-frei>

<https://www.luriegarden.org/plants/soapwort-max-frei/>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/herbs/soapwort/soapwort-plant.htm>

**Images of Saponaria x lempergii 'Max Frei'**



Saponaria x lempergii Max Frei Ozz.jpg

leaves



Saponaria x lempergii Max Frei 3zz.jpg  
close-up of blooms



Saponaria x lempergii Max Frei\_1.jpg  
mass growth of flowers



Saponaria x lempergii Max Frei\_2.jpg  
blooms with rock borders



Saponaria x lempergii Max Frei\_3.jpg  
combine with other plants

**Image choices for narrative:**

Saponaria x lempergii Max Frei 0zz.jpg -- leaves

Saponaria x lempergii Max Frei\_2.jpg - blooms with rock borders