Piggyback Plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*)
Saxifrage Family

**Why Choose It?**

Bring a spot of woodland into the house with Piggyback Plant. This herbaceous perennial can thrive in a shady garden dell or in an indoor hanging basket. Look for small new plantlets “piggy-backing” at the base of each leaf.

**In the Garden**

Piggyback Plant’s mounds of scalloped leaves make it a handsome semi-evergreen groundcover in shade or part sun. Slender flower stalks in April to June grow one to three feet tall, and sport small, odd, chocolate-purple flowers. Tolerant of wet soil, Piggyback Plant weaves well with other woodland dwellers, such as Fringe Cup or Lady Fern.

**The Facts**

Piggyback Plant grows from spreading underground stems, and it’s happiest in shade. In the garden, water it for the first two seasons for best growth. Indoors, give Piggyback Plant regular water and keep it out of direct sun. It’s easy to propagate all year, from plantlets, seeds, or pieces of the underground stem.

**Where to See It**

Throughout western Washington, you’ll find Piggyback Plant in damp forests and on creek banks from the lowlands up to mid-elevations.
Piggyback Plant is what botanists call monotypic. They mean that in the scientific genus *Tolmiea*, there’s only one species, *Tolmiea menziesii*. Named after two early botanical collectors in the region, William Fraser Tolmie of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and Archibald Menzies of Vancouver’s expedition, Piggyback Plant is native to only one part of the world—western North America.

And, hey, it’s unique!

You can find out more information about native plants, including where to buy them, from the Washington Native Plant Society.

www.wnps.org
206-527-3210 or 1-888-288-8022

Native Plant Spotlights
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