

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Pilea Moon Valley: crinkled foliage with a green glow

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AI-created indoor scene based on the clean original shop photograph with the young delivery form. 12 cm pot · approx. 15–20 cm total height according to the offer; the image is not a scale-accurate guarantee. Cachepot and furnishings are not included in the delivery.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Pilea involucrata 'Moon Valley'

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Botanical name	Pilea involucrata 'Moon Valley'
Delivery size	12 cm pot · approx. 15–20 cm total height
Family	Urticaceae
Species origin	Tropical Central and South America
Lifespan	Perennial evergreen herbaceous plant
Leaf appearance	Strongly raised surface and toothed edges
Leaf colours	Green with darker bronze to purple areas
Habit	Compact branching; older shoots may lengthen
Later size	RHS describes about 30 cm; culture and pruning affect form
Propagation	Shoot cuttings during growth retain the named selection

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Position	Provide bright indirect light and protection from hot window sun.	Textured foliage should be well lit without overheating behind glass.
Temperature	Keep warm and avoid temperatures below about 15 °C.	Moon Valley is a warmth-loving houseplant.
Watering	Water evenly once upper soil begins drying.	The little roots like moisture but neither complete dryness nor constant wetness.
Drainage	Ensure clear pot holes and pour away leftover water.	Moist soil still needs air; standing water keeps the rootball too wet.
Humidity	Avoid very dry heated air; allow ventilation in a bright cabinet too.	This pilea appreciates higher humidity, but an enclosed wet space creates new problems.
Feeding	During growth feed moderately according to a suitable fertiliser label.	A small pot reacts sensitively to unnecessarily high salt concentrations.
Shoot care	Gently shorten individual tips if needed.	This encourages branching and keeps longer shoots more compact.
Repotting	Only when distinctly well rooted move to a little more space during growth.	Loose humus-rich substrate should retain moisture while draining well.

Knowledge that grows

Leaves like a tiny hilly landscape

Moon Valley shows its distinctive feature even in a little pot. Surfaces rise markedly between sunken veins; pale green areas meet dark bronze to purple patches. Edges are toothed and young leaves unfold with their own little folds. One leaf thus almost resembles a landscape of hills and valleys. The pattern changes its impression with light without needing a flower. Position the plant so you can look down at it too. On a bright window console or in a well-lit plant cabinet the fine texture is particularly attractive.

A cultivar name with several species assignments

RHS lists Moon Valley as *Pilea involucrata* Moon Valley. Trade also uses *Pilea mollis* Moon Valley, whose RHS entry is listed as unresolved. The named selection Moon Valley is retained for this portrait; changing species assignment does not justify an additional identity. *Pilea* belongs to Urticaceae, the nettle family, and here is a tropical herbaceous houseplant. The species *Pilea involucrata* comes from Central and South America. The name friendship plant recalls the straightforward sharing of cuttings in suitable conditions. It does not mean the plant tolerates any room environment without care. Its warm moist growing conditions remain important.

Young foliage cushion rather than fixed final size

The current offer describes a 12 cm pot and approximately 15 to 20 cm total height. The clean original image shows the characteristic textured foliage; leaf number and branching can vary in living plants. RHS describes a later height around 30 cm as a guide. Older shoots may become longer and barer at the base, so form also depends on light and occasional shortening. Delivery height is therefore no permanent upper limit. When unpacking do not pull soft shoots by a leaf. Hold the pot, loosen the wrapper carefully and first check the rootball. An immediate move into a very large pot offers no advantage to a young pilea.

Brightness and warmth for delicate foliage

Moon Valley needs a bright position with indirect daylight. Hot midday sun behind glass may stress leaf surfaces; a slightly set-back position or light shading helps in summer. Deep in the room the brightness needed for compact branching is often missing. Keep the plant warm and avoid falling below about 15 °C. Cold air during ventilation and cold glass directly behind a pot deserve particular attention. A bright bathroom may suit if sufficient daylight is present. More humid air alone does not replace lighting. In a cabinet light must reach the plant without strongly heating the small space.

Keep moist but still let drain

As upper soil starts drying water the rootball evenly. The surface need not shine constantly, but the entire pot should not dry completely either. Lift it occasionally to learn the weight of a moist and a lighter rootball. After watering remove surplus from the cachepot. Loose humus-rich substrate makes this moisture-and-air balance easier. Overdense soil staying wet for long burdens roots just as repeated dry spells do. Very dry heated air may further affect foliage. A position away from the radiator and suitably higher room humidity are more useful than assuming one misting solves the problem permanently.

Support branching gently

Healthy shoot tips can be shortened carefully when needed to keep branching dense. Do this during active growth without removing all green surfaces. Suitable healthy shoot cuttings can form new plants in warm humid conditions, retaining the named selection. This is more helpful than seed sowing when specifically passing on the Moon Valley foliage. If the little pot is distinctly well rooted, provide slightly more room and fresh loose substrate in spring or summer. Feed moderately during growth and account for pre-fertilised soil. An exhausted or very dry rootball first receives suitable care, not extra fertiliser.

Follow more slowly in winter

With less daylight growth may decline and soil stays moist longer. Continue watering after checking rather than by the summer rhythm. Retain a warm bright position; this tropical pilea does not need an intentionally cold winter rest. Individual unattractive leaves may be removed while checking the cause of their damage. Brown edges may relate to dry air or disrupted water supply and are not a definite diagnosis of a single fault. Check leaf undersides for pests too. Small inconspicuous flowers are possible but normally do not determine indoor appearance. Fresh textured foliage and new branching give better feedback on care.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



AI-created leaf detail based on the original shop photograph: raised Moon Valley leaf surfaces with green edges and darker veins. Markings and leaf position may vary in living plants.



Unchanged original shop photograph of the offered plant. 12 cm pot · approx. 15–20 cm total height.

Good to know

Is Moon Valley called involucrata or mollis?

RHS lists the named selection under *Pilea involucrata*. The trade assignment *mollis* also occurs; it is not counted as a second plant here.

Is the bumpy leaf surface damage?

The distinctly raised surface is typical of Moon Valley. New unusual spots or deposits should be checked separately.

Can it stand directly on the south side?

Hot sun behind glass can stress foliage. Choose a bright position with filtered light and suitable shading.

Does it need a terrarium?

A bright warm cabinet may help but is not essential. Humidity, light and ventilation must also work together inside.

How moist should soil be?

Evenly slightly moist; upper soil may start drying. Avoid complete dryness and standing water.

How does it stay bushy?

Sufficient light and gently shortening individual tips when needed support branching.

Can I raise it true to cultivar from seed?

Vegetative shoot cuttings are better suited to the named foliage. Seedlings do not automatically confirm this selection.

What changes in winter?

The plant stays warm and bright. With slower growth the rootball usually dries more slowly and needs water less often.

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English portrait



Shop offer