Recommended Wood for Raised Beds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar</td>
<td>EASY TO SOURCE, LONG LASTING</td>
<td>EXPENSIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK LOCUST</td>
<td>LOCAL, LESS EXPENSIVE, LONGEST LASTING</td>
<td>HEAVY, HARDER TO GET IN WIDE PIECES, HARDEST TO DRILL, NOT WIDELY AVAILABLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEMLOCK</td>
<td>LOCAL, EASIER TO SOURCE, LONG LASTING</td>
<td>NO PEST RESISTANT PROPERTIES LIKE LARCH AND LOCUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>LARCH, AKA TAMARACK</td>
<td>LOCAL, LESS EXPENSIVE, LONGEST LASTING</td>
<td>HARDER TO GET IN WIDE PIECES, HARDER TO DRILL, NOT WIDELY AVAILABLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other hardwoods (Oak, Maple, Cherry)</td>
<td>LOCAL, LONG LASTING, EASY TO SOURCE</td>
<td>VERY EXPENSIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINE</td>
<td>INEXPENSIVE, READILY AVAILABLE, EASY TO DRILL, VERY EASY TO SOURCE</td>
<td>SHORT-LIVED (2 YEARS)</td>
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</tbody>
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Ordering Lumber

All types of lumber are typically available in 8-foot lengths. Other available sizes generally include: 10’, 12’, 16’ and 24’. There are three dimensions to consider:

1. Thickness of board. 1–2” depending on the strength of the type of lumber. (Please note that lumber sold as 2"x4" is actually 1.75"x3.75" or less.)

2. Width (or height) of board. It may be possible to find lumber that is 12” wide, to build a bed 12” high. More likely you will need twice the number of boards at half the width/height (for example, 2, 6” boards, stacked).

3. Length of board. Length is usually measured in “board feet” or “linear feet”. This is the total length of lumber needed. For example, a 3’x12’ bed would require a total 30 board feet of lumber (two walls 3’ long plus two walls 12’ long). Suppliers can cut lumber to length, for a nominal fee.

Plan to order extra wood for corner posts (2x2” or 2x4”) and/or 1x4” or 2x4” cleats to join narrow boards.

Resources

Alderfer Lumber
5532 Flint Valley Road
Mount Pleasant Mills PA 17853
570-539-2063
http://www.alderferlumber.com/

Frosty Hollow Hardwoods
1127 Frosty Hollow Lane
Vandergrift, PA 15690
724-568-3440

George M. Hall Co Lumber
1035 Forest Ave.
West Homestead, PA 15120
412-461-1168
http://www.gmhalllumber.com/

Paul Lumber
4072 Liberty Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-681-9200
https://paullumber.doitbest.com/

Timber Trails
315 Jervis Rd.
Grove City, PA 16127
724-738-0654