



GENERAL INFORMATION: LUMBER FOR RAISED BEDS

Choosing the right type of wood makes a big difference for raised bed gardens! Some wood rots easily and other types will last for years. For more information about raised beds, see Info Hub sheet *Building Raised Beds*.

RECOMMENDED WOOD FOR RAISED BEDS

Wood	Pros	Cons
CEDAR	EASY TO SOURCE, LONG LASTING	EXPENSIVE
BLACK LOCUST	LOCAL, LESS EXPENSIVE, LONGEST LASTING	HEAVY, HARDER TO GET IN WIDE PIECES, HARDEST TO DRILL, NOT WIDELY AVAILABLE
HEMLOCK	LOCAL, EASIER TO SOURCE, LONG LASTING	NO PEST RESISTANT PROPERTIES LIKE LARCH AND LOCUST
LARCH, AKA TAMARACK	LOCAL, LESS EXPENSIVE, LONGEST LASTING	HARDER TO GET IN WIDE PIECES, HARDER TO DRILL, NOT WIDELY AVAILABLE
OTHER HARDWOODS (OAK, MAPLE, CHERRY)	LOCAL, LONG LASTING, EASY TO SOURCE	VERY EXPENSIVE
PINE	INEXPENSIVE, READILY AVAILABLE, EASY TO DRILL, VERY EASY TO SOURCE	SHORT-LIVED (2 YEARS)

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