Best Materials for Raised Bed Gardens

Cedar



- The most popular choice.
- Naturally rot-resistant, safe for food, attractive, and easy to work.
- Costs more than pine but lasts ten to twenty years.

Galvanized Steel



- Kit beds are durable, go together quickly, and last twenty years or more.
- Dark steel can heat the soil along the edges in hot summers; light-colored panels run cooler.

Pine or Fir



- The budget choice, sold everywhere.
- Expect three to seven years before it needs replacing.

Composite Lumber



- Made from recycled plastic and wood fiber; doesn't rot and lasts twenty-five years or more.
- Costs more up front.

Concrete Blocks, Brick, or Stone



- Permanent and never rot, but heavy work to build.
- Decorative cement blocks go in easily.
- Plain unpainted block is safest; avoid painted decorative blocks.

Posts or Logs



- Short lengths driven into the ground make a rustic edge.