

👉 Buyer's guide / Raised beds



Growing goes up

Geoff Hodge raises the standards of veg growing with raised bed kits and systems

With the growing trend in growing your own, lots of people are now turning over parts of their garden to grow veg. But what's the best way?

To my mind, you can't beat raised beds. You can fill them with good soil if yours isn't the best; they warm up more quickly in the spring - especially important where the surrounding soil is heavy clay; you can grow crops closer together because they tend to produce better plants; and, because they should be used as a 'no dig' system - there's no heavy, back-breaking digging.

Raised beds are now popular and, as a result, some suppliers are even selling

accessories to make them into no-hassle growing systems. You can buy frames to support polythene to raise temperatures, fleece to keep off cold weather and pests, plant supports for taller crops - and even cold frames.

Suppliers
📍Access Garden Products 01788 822301 www.garden-products.co.uk
📍Bosmere 01293 586200 www.bosmere.com
📍Botanico/Nortene 0121 508 6570 www.botanicogarden.co.uk
Supplies direct to garden centres and stores
📍Gardman 01406 372227 www.gardman.co.uk
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📍Garland Products 01384 278256 www.garlandproducts.com
📍Harrod Horticultural 0845 402 5300 www.harrodhorticultural.com
📍Haxnicks 0845 241 1555 www.haxnicks.co.uk
📍Link-A-Bord 01773 590566 www.linkabord.co.uk
📍Marshall's 01480 443390 www.marshall's-seeds.co.uk
📍Parasene 0121 508 6570 www.parasene.com
📍Veg-Table 01737 233902, www.veg-tableltd.com
📍VegTrug 01206 230025 www.vegtrug.com

📍VegTrug

📍Info VegTrug is made from sustainably sourced, pressure treated planks with plastic feet to protect the wood from drawing up water and fitted membrane liner. Painted versions are also available in two colours. Available in two sizes; both are 76cm (30in) wide and 80cm (32in) high.
📍Prices Large: £149 plain, £199 painted; Small £99 plain, £129 painted
Frame & PVC Cover or Frame & Micromesh Cover: Large: £34.99; Small: £24.99



📍Access Raised Beds

📍Info Wooden raised beds made from sustainably sourced, pressure treated wood. Beds are 1.2m (4ft) wide and available in four lengths - from 1.2m (4ft) to 3m (10ft) and in a range of five heights from 11cm (4½in) to 58cm (23in).
The Hoop and Cover Kit comprises sturdy aluminium hoops and a heavy-duty mesh cover.
📍Prices Raised beds from £44 for one-tier 1.2m bed to £284 for five-tier 3m bed
Hoop and Cover Kit £69

📍Gardman Raised Beds

📍Info Wooden raised beds made from sustainably sourced, pressure treated wood. Made from interlocking sections, with no fixtures or fittings needed. The Wooden Raised Bed measures 100cm by 100cm by 20cm (39x39x8in), the Heavy Duty Raised Bed 100cm by 100cm by 30cm (39x39x12in).
The reinforced Raised Bed Canopy provides crop protection, has zipped access panels and spiked feet for secure fixing. The tough polypropylene Raised Bed Liner helps keep soil off the patio.
📍Prices Raised Bed £22.99
Heavy Duty Raised Bed £29.99
Raised Bed Canopy £27.99
Raised Bed Liner £4.99



📍Botanico Let's Grow

📍Info The 1m by 1m by 15cm deep (39x39x6in) Wooden Raised Bed is made from pressure-treated wood and can be stacked for extra depth.
The Plastic Raised Bed Kit is the same size, but made from twin-walled recycled plastic for extra insulation.
The 1m Square Cloche has a full length, side zip to give easy access. The Insect Net Cover is compatible with the cloche. The Raised Bed Irrigation Kit has 20 drippers.
📍Prices Wooden Raised Bed £29.99
Plastic Raised Bed Kit £29.99
1m Square Cloche £24.99
Insect Net Cover £9.99
Raised Bed Irrigation Kit £14.99



📍Parasene Raised Bed

📍Info The Parasene Raised Bed is made from sturdy galvanised steel. It is available in three sizes: 75cm by 75cm by 30cm (30x30x12in); 100cm by 100cm by 30cm (40x40x12in); 120cm by 100cm by 30cm (48x40x12in).
📍Prices £29.99; £34.99; £37.99



📍Marshall's Timber Raised Vegetable Bed

📍Info Made from sustainably sourced, pressure treated planks. Available in two qualities, Standard and Deluxe, and two sizes: 1.2m by 1.2m (4x4ft) and 1.2m by 2.4m (4x8ft).
Both are 15cm (6in) deep. Extension kits are also available.
📍Prices Standard: £39.95 for 1.2m; £47.95 for 2.4m
Deluxe: £54.95 for 1.2m; £69.95 for 2.4m
Extension Kits: £24.95 for Standard and £28.95 for Deluxe
The Gro-Frame Kit has all the fittings to make plant protection frames. You just add flexible pipe and your choice of protective cover.
📍Prices £15.95 for 1.2m by 1.2m bed; £22.25 for 1.2m by 2.4m bed



📍Bosmere Raised Bed Kit

📍Info The Bosmere Raised Bed Kit allows you to make any size raised bed, from one to three tiers high and almost any size or shape. The easy-to-use hinge brackets attach to standard gravel boards that you supply. The kit contains four pairs of corner joints and four ground/extender spikes.
📍Prices: £13.50



📍Veg-Table

📍Info The Veg-Table is made from treated timber and comes part-assembled with a liner cut to size. It is available in three sizes; all three are 76cm (30in) wide and 80cm (32in) high.
📍Prices 50cm (20in) long £74.99; 100cm (40in) long £99.99; 150cm (5ft) long £124.99



📍Haxnicks Raised Bed Growing System

📍Info The system uses sustainably sourced, pressure treated wood, plastic corner joints and extension poles to build multiple tier beds. The base measures 120cm by 100cm by 15cm (47x39x6in).
Powder-coated Raised Bed Frames are available separately to support optional Polythene Weather Protection Covers and Micromesh Pest Protection Covers.
📍Prices Raised Bed Base £34.99
Raised Bed Frame £12.99
Raised Bed Polythene Cover £14.99
Raised Bed Micromesh Cover £14.99
These are also available as Combo Kits.



📍Harrod Horticultural Timber Raised Beds

📍Info Available in three wood grades and a wide range of sizes. They are all made from sustainably sourced, pressure treated wood.
Corner Raised Beds and Raised Bed Tables are also available.
Accessories are also available: Fitted mesh covers to keep out pests with robust frames and hoops to support netting from £30.95 and irrigation kits from £27.50.
📍Prices Allotment Timber Raised Beds from £13 for 60cm by 60cm by 15cm (24x24x6in) to £94 for 2.4m by 2.4m by 0.45m (2.4x2.4x0.45ft)
Standard Timber Raised Beds from £20 for 60cm by 60cm by 15cm (24x24x6in) to £266 for 2.4m by 2.4m by 0.76m (8x8x2½ft)
Superior Timber Raised Bed Kits from £59 for 60cm by 60cm by 20cm (24x24x6in) to £388 for 2.4m by 2.4m by 0.81m (8x8x32ft)



📍Link-A-Bord

📍Info Link-A-Bord is made from 98 per cent recycled plastic, and is double-skinned for added insulation. It does not rot and is lightweight. Available in five colours and in 50cm (20in) and 100cm (40in) lengths, so you can make any size you need or buy a kit.
The Canopy Support is used to support your own fleece or polythene.
📍Prices £11 for 50cm by 50cm by 15cm (20x20x6in); £23 for 200cm by 100cm by 15cm (80x40x6in)
Canopy Support: £5-£10



📍Garland Products Grow Beds

📍Info Garland Grow Beds are made from injection moulded 100% recycled plastic. The Grow Bed measures 97.5cm by 97.5 cm by 25cm deep (38x38x10in); the Mini Grow Bed is 97.5cm by 51cm by 25cm deep (38x20x10in). Make them deeper by stacking them or double the size using an Extension Kit.
The Grow Bed Canopy Support provides a rigid support for netting or polythene. Also available are the Pop Up Cloche Cover, the Pop Up Net Cover and the Winter Cover for when the bed is empty.
The Timber Grow Bed is made from sustainably sourced, pressure treated wood. Size 120cm by 126cm by 14.5cm (48x50x6in). Stack units to increase the height and lengthen them with Extension Kits. The Pair of Steel Support Hoops provide a sturdy framework for polythene, fleece or netting.
The Micro Mesh Cover fits the Steel Support Hoops and protects against pests.
📍Prices Grow Bed £39.95
Mini Grow Bed £28.39
Timber Grow Bed £50.54
Extension Kit: Grow Bed £28.39; Mini Grow Bed £22.09; Timber Grow Bed £37.06
Grow Bed Canopy Support £17.69
Pop Up Cloche Cover £45.05
Pop Up Net Cover £46.10
Winter Cover £11.23
Pair of Steel Support Hoops £34.31
Micro Mesh Cover £38.32



GN TOP TIP
Avoid having to stand on your raised beds by making sure you can reach to the middle from the edge

This week's jobs
Take care of houseplants to help them through winter **Page 13**

📍 www.liveforgardening.com

