



Best Raised Beds, Wooden & Metal UK

For Allotments UK 2026

Composited off the Internet

By Gareth Richards

Best Allotment Raised Bed Kit UK 2026

A good raised bed kit turns "I'll get to the plot eventually" into a Saturday afternoon and a bed you can sow into. The big win is the soil. You fill it yourself, so you skip the years of digging and double-digging that open ground demands, and it warms up weeks earlier in spring while draining far better in a wet patch. Timber, galvanised steel or proper cedar, it depends on your budget and how long you want it to last. Below are the kits I'd actually buy, with the things worth checking before you part with your money.

The short version: the wooden kit we'd point most people at is the Yaheetech 241.5 x 62.5 x 27cm bed. The fir panels drop into grooved corner posts instead of screwing together, it holds 284 litres, and it's rated 4.5 out of 5 from more than 1,400 reviews. If you'd rather never think about rot, the Harbour Housewares galvanised 120 x 120cm bed does the same job in steel for £26.99. On sizing, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) guidance is worth following: keep beds to roughly 1.2m wide so you can reach the centre without treading on the soil, and 20–30cm deep for most vegetables.

1

Yaheetech Wooden Raised Garden Bed, 241.5 x 62.5 x 27cm
The panels are 1.4cm solid fir and they slide down into grooved corner posts, so there is nothing to screw together and nothing to work loose once the timber starts swelling and shrinking. At 2.4m by 0.6m it's a real bed rather than a planter, and the 27cm depth is enough for carrots and parsnips. One thing to know before it arrives: the wood is unfinished. Yaheetech say a coat of plant-safe oil before you fill it takes the life to five to seven years, and it's ten minutes well spent. It's rated 4.5 out of 5 from more than 1,400 reviews, far more feedback than any other wooden kit we looked at.

Panels slot into grooved posts, no screws
27cm deep, 284 litres
2.4m x 0.6m, reachable from both sides
Untreated fir, worth oiling before you fill it
£42.99 when we checked on 25 July 2026.

2

Harbour Housewares Galvanised Raised Bed, 120 x 120cm
The thing timber always loses to in the end is rot, and galvanised steel sidesteps it. It's bottomless, so it sits straight on the ground and roots carry on down into the soil beneath rather than hitting a base. The 1.2m square is exactly the width the RHS suggests, reachable from either side without stepping in. At £26.99 it's the cheapest kit on this page by a distance, and it holds 4.8 out of 5 across 130 reviews, the best score of the four.

Galvanised steel, nothing to rot
Bottomless, sits on bare soil
Square 1.2m x 1.2m footprint
Cheapest kit here
£26.99 when we checked on 25 July 2026.

3

Infinite Cedar 3ft x 3ft Raised Bed Kit
Know the price before you get attached: £309.56 for a 91cm square. This is the only genuine cedar kit we could find on Amazon UK, and it is not a sensible first bed. What you get for the money is western red cedar an inch thick, which resists rot with no chemical treatment anywhere near your soil, and twelve pieces that slot together with no tools and no fixings, so nothing loosens as the timber moves. Infinite Cedar put a five-year warranty behind it. Dispatch runs to four or five days. Nine reviews, all five stars, so treat that rating as thin evidence rather than proof.

Untreated western red cedar, 1 inch boards
12 pieces, no tools or fixings
91 x 91 x 28cm
Five-year manufacturer warranty
£309.56 when we checked on 25 July 2026

4

VegTrug Classic 1m Raised Bed Planter

The clever bit is the V-shape: deep down the middle for carrots and parsnips, shallow at the sides where salads are happy.

VegTrug reckon the shape also makes life awkward for slugs and voles. It's cedar, a liner is included, and it stands 80cm off the ground so you're not bent double all afternoon. At 103 x 76cm it holds 210 litres, which makes it a small-garden or bad-knees answer rather than something to fill a plot with. Rated 4.3 out of 5 from 206 reviews.

V-shape suits different root depths

80cm working height, no bending

Liner included

Cedar, no chemical treatment

£99.99 when we checked on 25 July 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best size for an allotment raised bed?

1.2m x 2.4m is what most people land on. The 1.2m width means you can reach the middle from either side and never have to stand on the soil and compact it, and the length gives you room to keep sowing as crops come out. 20-30cm deep covers most veg.

Are raised beds worth it on an allotment?

For most people, yes. The real payoff is skipping years of slowly improving claggy ground. Fill them with roughly 60/30/10 topsoil, compost and perlite and you're growing in decent stuff from the first weekend. As a bonus they mark out your paths and stop the whole plot looking like a building site.

How deep should raised beds be on an allotment?

20cm is the floor for most veg. Go to 30cm if you're growing carrots and parsnips that want a clear run down. 45cm is lovely but swallows a frightening amount of soil to fill. Our raised bed calculator will tell you exactly how much you need.

Do I need to line raised beds on an allotment?

You don't have to. A liner keeps your soil off treated timber and buys you a bit of extra life, so it's worth it with CCA-treated wood. Whatever you do, don't line it with solid plastic. It holds water against the boards and rots them from the inside out, which is the opposite of what you wanted.

How We Choose

We go for kit that lasts, doesn't cost silly money, and is easy to buy in the UK. Established brands with a warranty behind them win out, because spare parts still exist three years on. We check every product is actually on sale on Amazon UK before we list it. Prices checked 25 July 2026.

Best Galvanised & Metal Raised Beds UK 2026

Metal raised beds have taken over allotments for good reason: they last a decade-plus, they don't rot, and the tall ones mean you garden standing up instead of on your knees. Here are six worth the money, including waist-height beds that save your back.

Our top pick

Harbour Housewares Galvanised Raised Bed, 120 x 120cm

No rot, no maintenance, and deep enough for root veg. Owners consistently report them holding up through several winters without rusting through. 4.8★ on Amazon from 132 ratings, and usually under £30.

Wooden raised beds rot. That's the plain truth after a few wet winters on a plot. Galvanised and powder-coated steel beds cost a bit more up front but outlast timber several times over, and the tall ones solve the thing nobody talks about: the endless bending. If your knees or back have opinions, a waist-height metal bed is a genuine upgrade.

6 Metal Raised Beds Compared

Harbour House-ware's Galvanised Raised Bed	All-round value	120 x 120 cm square	4.8 ★ (132)	-£27	Check price
Harbour House-ware's Elevated Bed with Legs	No-bend gardening	On legs, with shelf	4.7 ★ (63)	~£38	Check price
Quictent Oval Galvanised Bed Kit	Looks + easy reach	180 x 90 x 45cm	4.6 ★ (26)	~£80	Check price
Nicomman Corten Steel Trough Planter	The designer look	90 x 30 x 82cm	4.5 ★ (8)	~£161	Check price

Bed	Best for	Size	Rating	Price	Buy
VegTrug VegTub Modular Metal Kit	Custom shapes	Modular tubs	3.8★ (5)	~£120	Check price
923L Extra -Deep Metal Raised Bed	Serious growing space	180 x 90 x 57cm	4.5★ (165)	~£37	Check price

Why metal beats wood on a plot

Timber looks lovely on day one and is grey and soft within three winters. Galvanised steel shrugs off the wet, won't harbour slugs in rotting joints, and the powder-coated versions come in colours that don't look out of place. The one myth worth killing: modern galvanised beds don't leach anything harmful into your soil or your veg. It's the same coating used on water troughs, and has been for a century.

Waist-height beds: the back-saver

If you take one thing from this page, look hard at the tall beds. Gardening at 80cm instead of ground level is the difference between a plot you enjoy and one that leaves you stiff for two days. They use more soil to fill, so line the bottom third with logs, cardboard and coarse material to cut the cost and improve drainage. Ideal for anyone with a dodgy back, and honestly, most people end up preferring them.

How much soil will you need?

A standard 30cm bed needs roughly its length x width x 0.3m of soil. Our raised bed soil calculator does the maths so you don't over-order and blow the budget on compost.

Filling without breaking the bank

Filling a big bed with bagged compost is eye-wateringly expensive. Don't. Fill the bottom half with rotting logs, twigs, cardboard and grass clippings, then top with a mix of topsoil and compost. It settles over the first season, so top it up in spring, and it feeds the soil as it breaks down.

Pro Tip

Put a metal bed on weed membrane, not bare grass, or couch grass and bindweed will come straight up through the bottom. And leave a mower-width gap between beds so you're not strimming on your hands and knees all summer.

Pair your beds with a watering system so they don't dry out (raised beds drain fast), and a compost bin to keep them topped up for free.

How to Contact the Editor

If you have comments or you know I have given wrong advice then please contact me by email at

gareth.richards@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

If you have something to contribute or have a say on allotment life, then please use my email to send your contributions.

I am going to process the magazine issue once a month, so if there are comments you would like to make they can be answered in future editions.

I would like to add that most of the articles are taken off the web and some well known gardening and allotments magazines have been read in the making of our magazine content.

We also have our own website at :

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

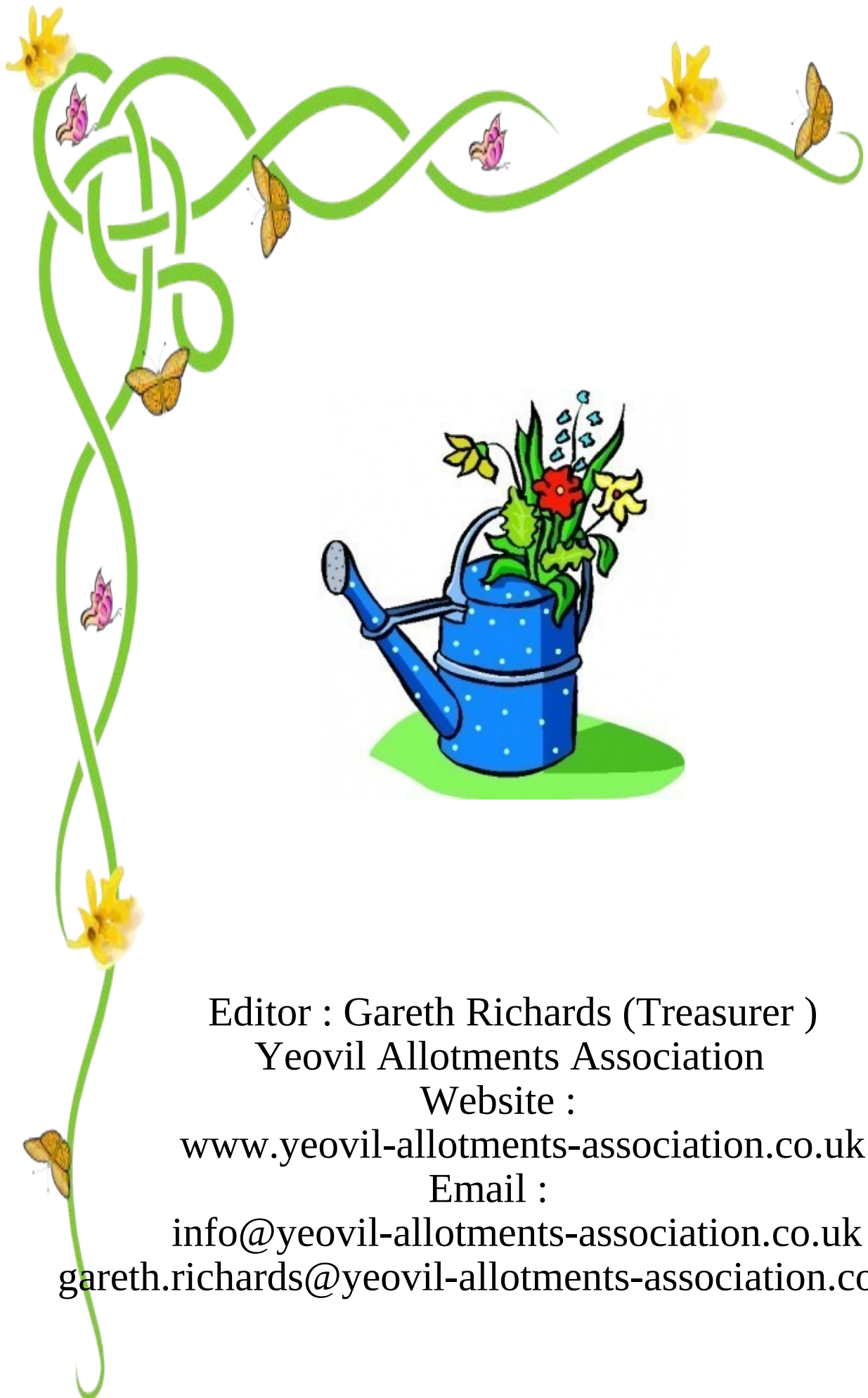
where you can find this magazine as well as a catalogue

Happy Allotmenting and best wishes,

Gareth Richards

Treasurer

Eliz Flats, Plot 14



Editor : Gareth Richards (Treasurer)

Yeovil Allotments Association

Website :

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

Email :

info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

gareth.richards@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk