

MAKING GRAVEL WALKS.



HERE new walks are to be made, it is important that they should be made with due regard to their surroundings. If they are to be intended for vehicles as well as walking on, as is generally the case in the main walks in large gardens and pleasaunces, a greater depth of soil than would be necessary in the case of walks for pedestrians, should be dug out, to admit of a greater thickness of hard material being laid in the bottom for drainage, and to sustain the harder traffic. The first point to determine when making a walk, after the line of direction has been decided upon, is the width that it shall be made. Main walks should be from ten to eighteen feet in width, according to the extent of the grounds, the others being from five to seven feet wide. This done, due regard should be paid to the level of the ground on either side of the walk, as well as the direction in which it is proposed to take the surface-water. A depth of from nine to eighteen inches, will, in a general way, be ample for walks of the dimensions mentioned above, but in cases where the top-soil is shallow, and resting on a substratum of chalk, gravel or stone, all that is necessary is to remove the top-soil, and with which the ground on either side the walk can be made level, together with the filling up of any depressions that may happen to be close by. Whatever edging be used, turf, box, flints, heather, etc., it should be laid before the bottoming of the walk is proceeded with. The bottom of the walks should be deeper at the sides than in the middle, that is, it should be slightly arched or convex, so as to convey the surface-water to the sides. If the substratum be chalk, it should be well pounded all over, allowing sufficient fall (longitudinally) to the points towards which it is decided to drain the walks, providing means at each outlet to convey thither any water that might lodge on the opposite side of the walk—that is, when it is not convenient to have outlets connected with drains or “catch-pits” on both sides of the walk. In the case of walks being made on soils resting on a bed of chalk, gravel or stone, as mentioned above, a smaller quantity of hard materials becomes necessary. A broad walk, having an excavated depth of eighteen inches, should have at least one foot of coarse materials in the bottom, over this three inches of coarse gravel, followed by a like depth of fine red gravel, if obtainable. This should be raked level and smooth, and rolled as soon as dry enough—first, with a light roller, and then with a heavy one, repeating the operation four or five days in succession, or until a level, firm surface is produced. Walks of from nine to twelve inches deep should be given a layer of proportionate thickness of the several materials recommended for the walk described above. Bold, yet graceful curves should be observed in making winding walks. Where box is used as an edging, taste and judgment, only to be acquired by practice, are necessary to do the work with precision and neatness. H. W. WARD, *Longford Castle, Salisbury.*