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widening of numerous footpaths and the provision of new ones, it is now possible to undertake even big walking tours in the Aletsch region dryshod nearly all the year round. A partially new footpath runs at a slight elevation across the left bank of the Rhône at a height of between 2,500 and 3,300 ft from Brig via Mörel and Bister to Grengiols and from there into the Binn Valley. On the other side of the Rotten, walking is possible on snow-free routes at a halfway height of between 3,300 ft and 4,500 ft from Mörel via Breiten to Ried-Greich-Goppisberg-Betten into the Fiesch Valley. In midsummer and autumn the attractions are the walking routes at the height of about 6,600 ft, such as the new path from Belalp across the Aletsch Glacier to Riederalp and Bettmeralp. Walking and natural science weeks are, incidentally, organised on the Riederalp and Bettmeralp.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the next few weeks:—

Mr. H. Humbel will be 74 on 5th October and Madame de Fischer, Berne, will celebrate her birthday on 10th. Mrs. Keufeler on the 18th and Mrs. H. Shepherd will be 77 on the 21st. Dr. E. M. Bircher (Bissone TI) will be 84 on the 22nd and Mrs. Theresa Furrer will be 89 on the 24th. Mr. H.J. Thomson will be 65 on the 25th October and Mr. A. Kunzler will be 83 on the 15th November.

Mr. and Mrs. Reutlinger (Basle) will have their 34th wedding anniversary on 9th October on the same date Mr. and Mrs. E. Bader will have been married for 64 years.

Congratulations and many happy returns to all of them and any other subscribers whose birthdays or anniversaries we are unaware.

FOR THE GARDENER

BLACK CURRANT

Young plants should be planted between October and at latest March, November is the ideal month. Plant around 4 ft to 6 ft apart and 1½ in to 2 in deeper than the soil mark as this encourages bottom growth. Immediately after planting cut down ALL shoots to second bud up from soil level and give good manure or compost mulch.

Ideal soil is well drained but moisture retaining into which manure or compost is worked before planting.

Every year in March give good mulch of manure or compost at the rate of two buckets per square yard. In late January feed with 1 oz (one tablespoon) sulphate of potash and every third year add 2 ozs (two tablespoons) of superphosphate. Water well in dry spells.

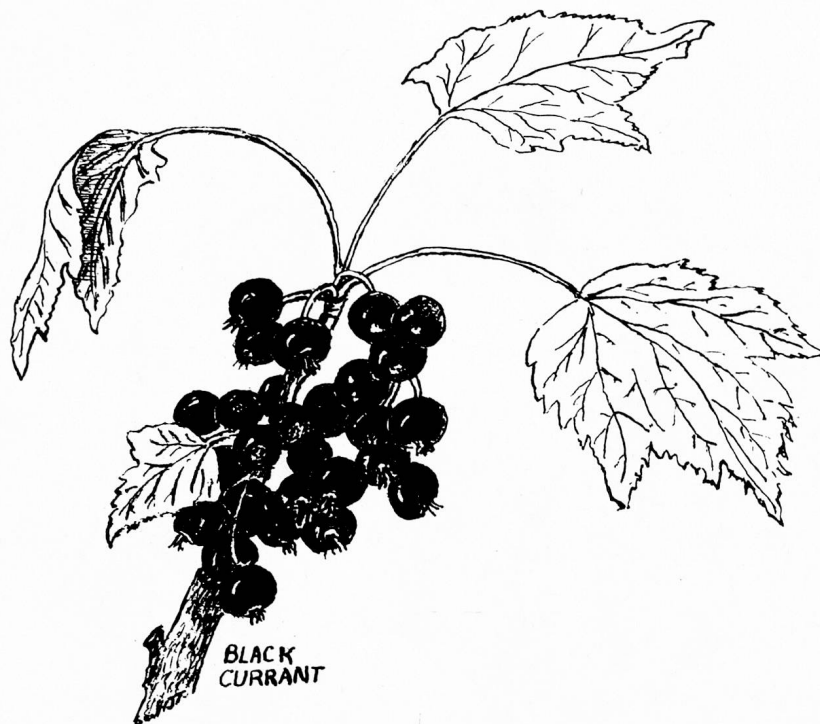
As plants are shallow rooting do not hoe or fork weeds but stifle with a good mulch, grass cuttings can be used for this.

Buds and fruit should be protected from birds, fruit should not be picked until fully ripe.

Fruit is produced in the main on previous year's growth so the aim of pruning is to remove some of the older darker wood to encourage new growth. Keep balance between extension growths and new shoots from the base.

Propagation can be by taking cuttings of half ripe wood about 9 in long. Cut just above a bud and trim unripe wood from tip. Root in prepared trench, planting about 6 in apart. After one year the cuttings should have rooted and be making some growth, dig up and plant in permanent position and treat as new plants.

Big Bud is the curse of black currants and bushes should be sprayed with lime sulphur when the flowers have turned into the 'grape' stage, that is when the flowers have finished blooming and small purple bunches of forming fruit appear.



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