

## Plants The next set in the Action for Species



TEN 1ST CLASS STAMPS and a miniature sheet featuring plants and Kew Gardens go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 19 May – the third in the Action for Species series, following the Birds and Insects stamps of September 2007 and April 2008. The stamps depict some of the UK's 450 wild plants at risk: Round-headed Leek, Floating Water-plantain, Lady's Slipper Orchid, Dwarf Milkwort, Marsh Saxifrage, Downy Woundwort, Upright Spurge, Plymouth Pear, Sea Knotgrass, and Deptford Pink, using illustrations from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and the Natural History Museum, London.

The stamps and sheet were designed by Studio Dempsey and litho printed by Cartor, in sheets of 30 (for Post Office branches) or 60 (for Tallents House and philatelic outlets). The stamps, 35mm square, have a phosphor background screen and perforation 14.5.

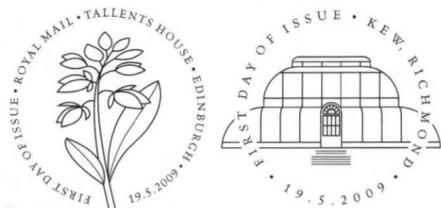
The miniature sheet comprises two 1st class and two 81p stamps depicting Palm House, Kew Gardens; Millennium Seed Bank, Wakehurst Place; Pagoda, Kew Gardens; and Sacklet Crossing, Kew Gardens.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Kew postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0913' or 'FD0914'. For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe, £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

# series features ten of the UK's most endangered wild plants



Set of stamps	£3.60
Miniature sheet	£2.34
Presentation pack (stamps and sheet)	£6.45
Miniature sheet press sheet	£0.00
First day cover envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC: stamps (UK customers)	£4.61
Serviced FDC: stamps (overseas customers)	£4.01
Serviced FDC: miniature sheet (UK customers)	£3.16
Serviced FDC: miniature sheet (overseas customers)	£2.75
Stamp cards set (15)	£5.85



An illustrated pack, written by Gail Vines, gives details of each of the endangered plants shown on the stamps. The pack was designed by Russell Warren-Fisher, and printed by Walsall Security Printers.



Royal Mail, Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB

A few woodlands in Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire. Cessation of tree-cutting and coppicing, which traditionally created well-lit clearings, is probably to blame for its decline.

**PLYMOUTH PEAR** (*Pyrus cordata*) is a unique British wild pear, discovered in 1865 in hedge-banks outside the city of Plymouth. Today, only a few hundred trees exist in just seven locations.

**SEA KNOTGRASS** (*Polypogon maritimum*) grows just above the high-tide level in a few places along the southern coast of England and Ireland. A Mediterranean species on the edge of its range in southern Britain, it is vulnerable to exceptional tides.

**DEPTFORD PINK** (*Dianthus armeria*) was once widespread, but over the past 60 years it has suffered one of the most rapid declines of any species in the British flora, as the dry pastures, field borders and hedgerows it needs have steadily disappeared. It is now restricted to about two dozen sites in England and Wales.

The featured distribution maps are based upon map schemes from the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

The miniature sheet is shown at proof stage; the 81p values are subject to confirmation.