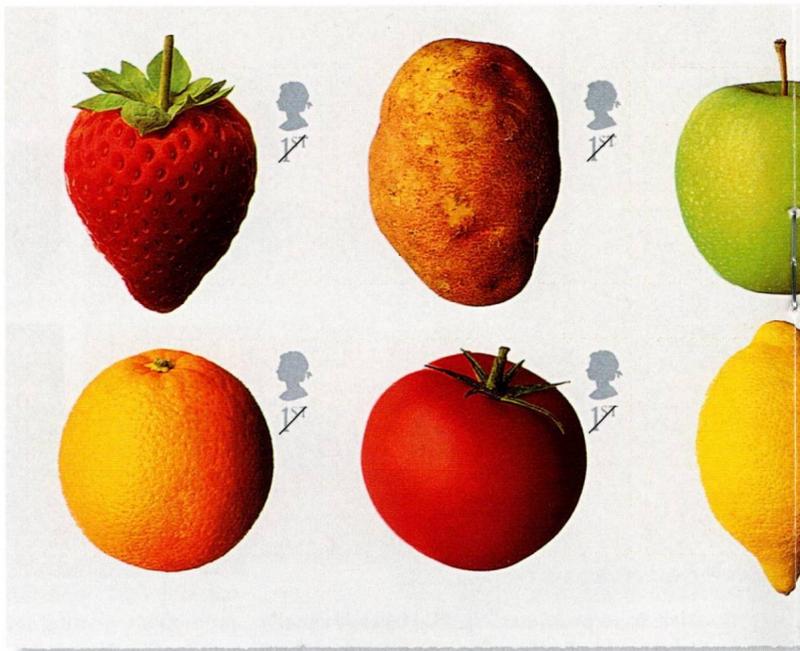


Fun Fruit & Veg New self-adhesive stamps



Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 39 × 28.5mm

Perforation 14.5 × 14 die cut.
The stamps are 'kiss cut' to shape around each image

Phosphor Two bands

Gum Self-adhesive

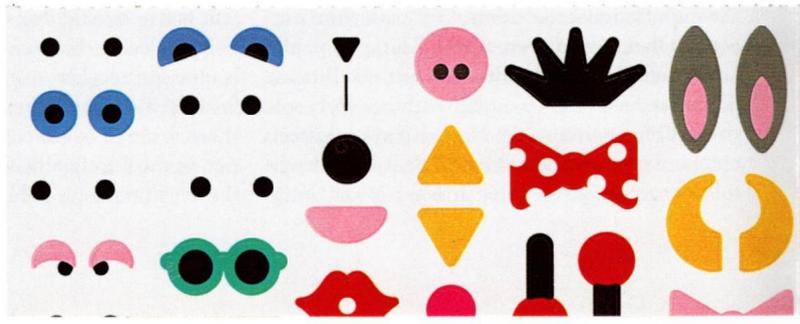
Colours

Yellow, magenta, cyan (blue), black, silver

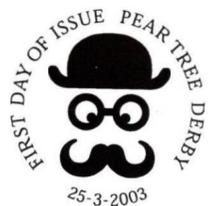
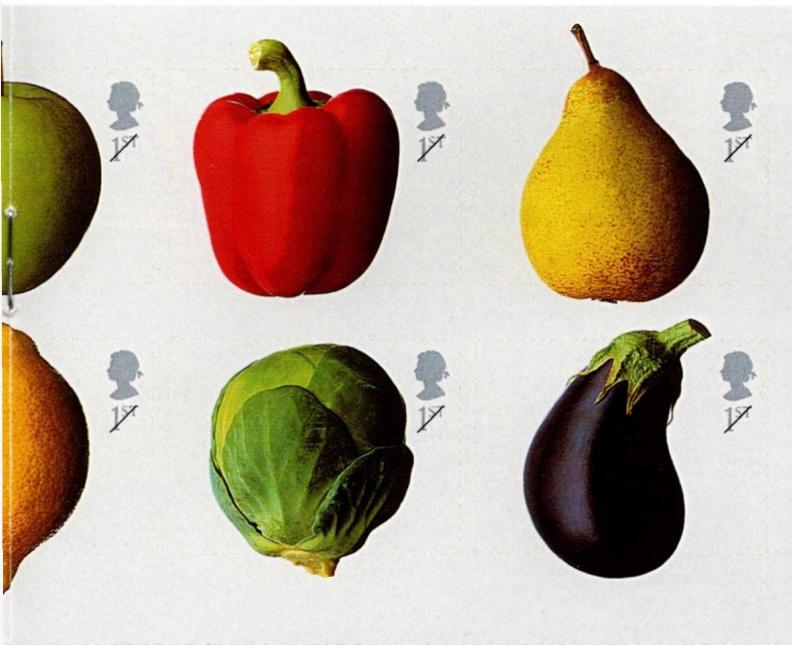
No cylinder numbers

TEN 27P (1ST CLASS) STAMPS featuring fruit and vegetables will go on sale at Post Office branches and Royal Mail Tallents House on 25 March. Hailed as Royal Mail Design-It-Yourself Stamps, they are aimed mainly at children as an inter-active product. Hopefully the colourful designs and fun labels will encourage more young people to take up stamp collecting as a hobby. The stamps are printed together in a block on self-adhesive paper. They feature: top row (left to right) strawberry, potato, apple, red pepper, pear; bottom row orange, tomato, lemon, cabbage, and aubergine. The Queen's head and 1st class indicator are positioned at top right.

The stamps will be supplied in a pack together with colourful self-adhesive labels (below) showing eyes, ears, mouths, hats, etc so that children (and no doubt some adults) can have fun adding faces to the fruits and vegetables on the stamps. The stamps were designed by Johnson Banks, using photographs by Kevin Summers.



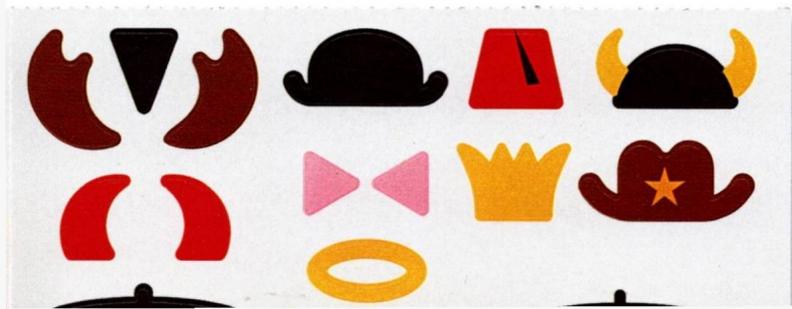
present an opportunity to 'design-it-yourself'



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 25 March, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Pear Tree, Derby must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.59 UK or £3.06 overseas. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA (Pear Tree postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0307' (Tallents House), or 'FD0308' (Pear Tree). Covers posted at main Post Office branches will receive the Pear Tree postmark.

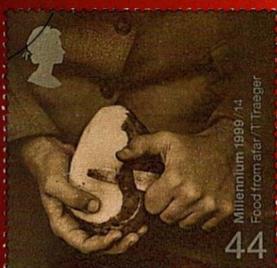
British Postmark Bulletin
 £12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere. For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 25 March will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. Please note the new prices given at right.



The stamps and labels will be sold in sealed packs (shown above), price £2.70.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated presentation pack containing the 10 stamps and labels (top, price £3.05) and stamp cards (not shown, 25p each) will be available from Tallents House and main Post Office branches. The pack was designed by Morgan Radcliffe ●



Fruit and veg on stamps Somewhat surprisingly owing to their importance to our diet, the forthcoming set is the first devoted to fruits and vegetables. Indeed the number of stamps on the subject is very limited: 1989 one of the first issue Greetings stamps (bowl of fruit, top left), 1989 Food & Farming 19p (above left), 1993 Autumn 24p and 39p (blackberry and pear, top centre and top right), 1999 Millennium Settlers' Tale 26p (fruit, above centre) and Farmers' Tale 44p (peeling potato, above right).

Britain's farmers produce a wide range of fruit and vegetables – especially traditional crops such as apples, pears, currants, berries, salad plants, onions, leeks, cauliflower, broccoli, tomatoes, Brussels sprouts, peas and beans. In recent years several more exotic items have been grown in increased quantities, for example sweet peppers, aubergines, kohlrabi, mooli, pumpkins and squashes •