



BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES: PRESS RELEASE

'Natives Good, Aliens Bad': David Pearman will be challenging this preconception on Radio 4 this week.

David will be interviewed on 'Costing the Earth', broadcast on Tuesday 12th February, at 3.30 pm and Wednesday 13th at 9.00pm, or available via iPlayer.

The programme is called 'When Nettles attack!' and David will be helping Tom Heap investigate how domestic invasive plant species, including nettles, brambles and bracken, are "threatening the British countryside by choking other native plant growth".

Tom was visiting Goss Moor, a National Nature Reserve in Cornwall to find out if the site is becoming over-run by willows, gorse and brambles, and if any alien plants are present. Both Ian Bennallick, **BSBI's Vice-County Recorder** for East Cornwall, and Natural England Reserve Warden, Phil Bowler, joined David at Goss Moor and they are among the botanists featured in the programme.

David Pearman is co-editor of the 'New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora' and former President of the **Botanical Society of the British Isles**. He was instrumental in setting up **BSBI's** influential Plant Unit, and has published widely on alien and native plants in the UK.

****Media enquiries:**

1. Contact Louise Marsh, BSBI Publicity Officer, for more information or to arrange an interview with David Pearman. Email: publicity@bsbi.org.uk
2. Or contact Dr Kevin Walker, Head of Research & Development at **BSBI's Plant Unit**, to find out how our scientific data is used in botanical conservation. Email: kevinwalker@bsbi.org.uk
3. More information on **BSBI's** botanical activities in Cornwall available at <http://bsbi.org.uk/cornwall.html>

Reference:

Pearman, D.A. & Walker, K.J. 2009. Alien plants in Britain - a real or imagined problem? *British Wildlife* 21: 22-27.

Preston, C.D., Pearman, D.A. & Dines, T.D. 2002. *New Atlas of the British & Irish flora*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.