

Colonial Mowing Pattern Changes Paying Off

The changes in mowing patterns at Colonial NHP described by Chuck Rafkin on page 16 of the Fall 1990 issue of **Park Science** already are paying off in 2 park fields. Word from Rafkin is that natural vegetation, including wildflowers, are suppressing the johnson grass in these fields.

"With this in mind," he writes, "we have developed and initiated a plan with the local Colonial Water and Conservation District to conduct a cooperative experimental demonstration project to suppress johnson grass in the park, employing selective vegetative management techniques without the use of herbicides."

The Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District is providing technical assistance, financing, and the use of a no-till seeder to the park. Additional technical support is being provided by Jeff Marion, Mid-Atlantic Regional research scientist.

The park is benefitting from the work of graduate students in the course entitled Federal Jurisdictional Wetlands Delineation at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, College of William and Mary. Their class project is to survey for non-tidal wetlands the open fields of the park's Yorktown Battlefield unit. Areas meeting the Federal guidelines have been delineated and mapped. The park will be supplied with the maps and reports on each area and the information will be added to the park GIS.

With regard to the water resource management plan for the park, a change of cooperators now has the park working with the William and Mary Virginia Institute of Marine Science under a cooperative agreement. Dr. Carl Herschner, head of the Wetland Ecology department, and Dr. Suzette Kimball, geologist in the Division of Geological and Benthic Oceanography and co-director of the Virginia Coastal Inventory program, are the principal investigators.