



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

December 31, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Luis A. Valdez-Aguilar was employed as a **Post-doctoral researcher** in the Water Reuse and Remediation Management Unit at this Laboratory from July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007. He was an extremely active and productive participant in an area of interdisciplinary research that is relatively new to our unit, namely the development of an improved knowledge base to enhance the sustainability and profitability of floriculture greenhouse and field operations.

Dr. Valdez-Aguilar came to this Laboratory with glowing letters of recommendation from two professors at Texas A&M and I have been gratified that his knowledge, skills, abilities and performance continues to meet, and generally exceeds, my expectations. The caliber of our floriculture research has reached new heights primarily due to Dr. Valdez-Aguilar's enthusiasm and guidance. Within the 18 months, his keen insights and practical knowledge of various aspects of production floriculture have resulted in two manuscripts describing the unusual salt tolerance of *Eustoma grandiflorum* which are currently under peer-review. Another eight papers on salinity effects on growth, quality, nutrition and ion relations of ranunculus, marigold, poinsettia and landscape plants are currently in the 'draft' stage.

Dr. Valdez-Aguilar has made remarkable contributions to our floricultural research and has generated valuable new information to floriculture and nursery crop industries. Both Dr. Valdez-Aguilar and I expect to continue cooperative research on the response of horticultural crops to irrigation with degraded, recycled waters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine M. Grieve".

Catherine M. Grieve, PhD
Research Plant Physiologist



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