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COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND
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CITRUS RESEARCH CENTER AND
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

January 21, 1992

Dr. Frank Westerlund
California Strawberry
Advisory Board
Watsonville, CA

Dear Frank:

During the strawberry season in 1988 I was called down to San Diego county to investigate the collapse of strawberry plants at Gourmet Gardens, 2050 Sycamore Drive, San Marcos, California. This strawberry acreage was probably not in the city limits of San Marcos but very close to the city limits sign. Upon arrival I found the acreage planted to strawberries had large areas of collapsing plants. I am sending you a photograph of one of these areas and they were prevalent here and there over the strawberry acreage. It was obvious the expected yield was drastically reduced. The grower had not treated with the usual methyl bromide-chloropicrin mixture which is the standard for the vast majority of California strawberry growers. Based on our years of working with strawberry diseases we supposed the plants were probably infected with the *Verticillium* wilt fungus. Plants were taken back to the University of California, Riverside and in due time we did isolate the *Verticillium* fungus from the affected plants. It illustrates again a soil fumigation treatment is necessary for the control of *Verticillium* and other root rots in California. These fungi live in the soil for a long time and do not disappear with time.

Would appreciate if you would return the slide at some later date since I use this field as an illustration of lack of disease control in my Plant Pathology 246 field plant pathology class.

Wishing you all of the best in 1992.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Albert O. Paulus".

Albert O. Paulus
Plant Pathologist



Photo of field referred to in letter of Albert Paulus