

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Flourishing Forever: The Advantages of Growing Perennial Plants

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Perennial plants prevent soil erosion by developing deep root systems that stabilize soil, sequester carbon, and enhance water infiltration. Examples include prairie grasses and oak trees with extensive root networks.
2. Perennial gardens support pollinators by providing nectar and pollen-rich flowers throughout the growing season. Gardeners can plant species like coneflowers and bee balm and incorporate habitat features like bee hotels and butterfly puddling stations.
3. Growing perennials reduces long-term maintenance costs for homeowners and landscapers while increasing property value. Sustainable landscaping practices can save water, reduce fertilizer use, and create resilient outdoor spaces that benefit the environment and community.
4. In a community park, I would select a mix of native and ornamental perennials to create a biodiverse and visually appealing landscape. Choices might include native wildflowers like milkweed and goldenrod, along with ornamental grasses and flowering shrubs that attract wildlife and enhance the park's beauty.

