

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Underground Helpers: How Perennial Plants Boost Soil Health

### Short Answer Key

1. Perennial plants contribute organic matter through leaf litter, root exudates, and decomposing plant material.
2. Perennial plants help prevent soil erosion by anchoring soil particles with their extensive root systems.
3. Perennial plants improve soil structure by creating channels and pores in the soil with their roots.
4. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form plants can use, thereby enhancing soil fertility.
5. Perennial plants are important for sustainable gardening practices because they reduce soil erosion, enhance soil fertility, and support diverse ecosystems.

