

Name _____

Nutrient Boosters: How Annual Plants Enhance Soil Health

Short Answer Key

1. Annual plants contribute to soil fertility through nitrogen fixation by hosting nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their roots, which convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that plants can use.
2. Crop rotations help maintain soil health by balancing nutrient needs, preventing soil depletion, and reducing the buildup of pests and diseases that target specific plant species.
3. One benefit of companion planting with annual plants is that it allows different plant species to support each other's growth and health, such as nitrogen-fixing plants providing nutrients for heavy feeders.
4. Organic matter accumulation from decomposing annual plants improves soil health by releasing valuable nutrients into the soil, enhancing soil structure, and providing habitat for beneficial soil organisms.
5. Mulching contributes to soil health by retaining moisture, suppressing weed growth, regulating soil temperature, and promoting the activity of soil organisms.

