

Name _____

Green Thumb Guide: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Perennial Plant Care

Short Answer Key

1. Gardeners can improve soil drainage for perennial plants by amending heavy clay soils with organic matter like compost and avoiding planting in low-lying areas where water collects.
2. Some examples of common garden pests that can affect perennial plants include aphids, spider mites, slugs, and caterpillars.
3. Testing soil pH is important for perennial plant care because it determines the availability of nutrients in the soil and influences the overall health and growth of the plants.
4. Powdery mildew on perennial plants presents as white powdery spots or patches on the leaves, stems, and flowers, which can eventually cause leaf distortion and premature leaf drop.
5. Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for controlling garden pests include cultural practices, such as crop rotation and sanitation, mechanical methods like handpicking pests, and biological controls such as introducing beneficial insects or nematodes.

