

Name _____

Green Thumb No-Nos: Common Mistakes in Growing Annual Plants

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Overwatering is harmful to annual plants because it can lead to root rot, which deprives plants of oxygen and prevents them from absorbing nutrients. Additionally, excess moisture can promote the growth of fungal diseases and leach nutrients from the soil, further compromising plant health and vigor.
2. Proper spacing is essential in preventing overcrowding of annual plants because it reduces competition for resources like water, sunlight, and nutrients. When plants are crowded, they must compete for these essential resources, leading to reduced growth, increased susceptibility to pests and diseases, and overall poor performance.
3. Soil health can impact the success of annual plants by affecting nutrient availability, water retention, and root development. Poor soil fertility or structure can lead to stunted growth, nutrient deficiencies, and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases. To improve soil health, gardeners can amend their soil with organic matter, conduct soil tests to determine nutrient levels, and adjust pH as needed.
4. The optimal timing for planting annual seeds or transplanting seedlings depends on various factors, including the plant's specific requirements, the local climate, and the expected last frost date. Gardeners should consider these factors when planning their planting schedule to ensure that seeds germinate successfully and seedlings establish without being subjected to adverse weather conditions.

