

Name _____

The Fleeting Beauty of Annuals: Exploring Their Lifespan

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Annual plants are described as "fleeting" because they complete their entire life cycle within a single growing season, making their presence in the landscape brief but impactful.
2. Setting seed is significant in the life cycle of annual plants because it ensures the survival of their species by dispersing offspring to new locations, allowing them to continue their legacy in the ecosystem.
3. The cycle of life of annual plants reflects the broader cycles found in nature, such as the changing seasons and the interconnectedness of all living things in the web of life.
4. Humans benefit from the presence of annual plants in their environment in many ways, including aesthetic enjoyment, food production, and ecosystem services such as pollination and soil health.

