

Name _____

Gardening Gold: Finding and Enhancing the Perfect Soil

Short Answer Key

1. Loamy soil is a balanced mixture of sand, silt, and clay. It is ideal for gardening because it provides good drainage, retains moisture, and has excellent nutrient-holding capacity.
2. Cover cropping involves planting specific crops in the garden during the off-season to protect and enrich the soil. These crops, when turned into the soil, add organic matter, improve soil structure, and increase nutrient levels.
3. Organic fertilizers, such as compost and manure, enrich the soil with natural nutrients and improve long-term soil health. Synthetic fertilizers provide a more immediate nutrient boost but may not enhance soil structure.
4. pH is essential because it affects nutrient availability to plants. Maintaining a balanced pH level ensures that plants can access the necessary nutrients. To adjust pH, add lime to raise pH in acidic soil and sulfur to lower pH in alkaline soil.
5. Answers will vary based on personal experiences.

