

Name _____

Perennial Plights: Dealing with Pests and Diseases in Your Garden

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Sanitation measures, such as cleaning tools, removing debris, and practicing crop rotation, help reduce disease reservoirs and prevent the buildup of pest populations. For example, removing and disposing of infected plant debris prevents fungal spores from overwintering and reinfesting plants the following season.
2. Beneficial insects like ladybugs, lacewings, and parasitic wasps prey on common garden pests like aphids, caterpillars, and spider mites, reducing the need for chemical pesticides. By planting a diverse range of flowering plants to attract and sustain beneficial insects, gardeners can create balanced ecosystems that support natural pest control.
3. Viral diseases are challenging to manage once plants are infected, as there are no chemical treatments available. Therefore, selecting disease-resistant plant varieties and maintaining strict sanitation practices are crucial for preventing viral infections. Additionally, controlling insect vectors and practicing crop rotation can help reduce the spread of viral diseases in perennial gardens.
4. Select disease-resistant plant varieties adapted to local growing conditions.

Practice good garden hygiene by removing diseased plant material promptly.

Implement integrated pest management strategies, such as monitoring pest populations and using physical barriers or biological controls when necessary.

