

Name _____

Warding Off Woes: Battling Pests and Diseases in Your Herb Garden

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Two preventive measures for controlling pests and diseases in herb gardens are regular inspection and removal of affected plant parts and the use of natural predators like ladybugs or lacewings. Regular inspection helps detect pest or disease issues early, while natural predators can help keep pest populations in check without the need for chemical pesticides.
2. Powdery mildew appears as a white powdery substance on the leaves of herb plants. It is important to address this fungal disease promptly because it can spread rapidly and cause significant damage to plant foliage, leading to reduced plant vigor and yield.
3. Providing good air circulation is essential for preventing fungal diseases like powdery mildew because it helps reduce humidity levels around plant foliage, creating an environment that is less favorable for fungal growth. To improve air circulation around herb plants, you can space them apart adequately and avoid overcrowding, prune dense foliage, and avoid overhead watering.
4. One organic method for controlling aphid populations in herb gardens is introducing beneficial insects like ladybugs or lacewings, which are natural predators of aphids. These insects feed on aphids and help keep their populations in check without the need for chemical pesticides. Using natural predators is preferable to chemical pesticides in organic gardening practices because it avoids harm to beneficial insects and maintains ecological balance in the garden.

