

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Battling Bugs and Blights: Protecting Your Annual Plants

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Early detection is important in managing pests and diseases in annual plants because it allows gardeners to intervene quickly, preventing further damage and reducing the need for more aggressive control measures like chemical pesticides.
2. Good air circulation is important in preventing fungal diseases in the garden because it helps foliage dry quickly after watering, reducing the risk of moisture-related diseases like powdery mildew and downy mildew.
3. Gardeners can strike a balance between chemical controls and natural remedies by first implementing cultural practices and natural controls, reserving chemical pesticides as a last resort if other methods fail to manage the problem effectively.
4. Overwatering can contribute to the spread of fungal diseases in annual plants by creating damp, humid conditions that are favorable for fungal growth and proliferation.

