Abiotic factors – nonliving parts of an ecosystem

Aeration – cause air to circulate through

Agriculture - related to farming

Artificial light – a man made light source (ex. Lamp)

Beneficial insects – insects used to help a garden area, usually to protect against pests

Biological pest control – the use of beneficial insects to protect plants from pests

Biotic factors – living parts of an ecosystem

Botanist – a scientist who studies plants

Botany – the scientific study of plants

Carbon dioxide – a gas made of one part carbon and two parts oxygen (Animals exhale carbon dioxide; plants “breath” carbon dioxide.)

Carnivore – an organism that eats only meat/animal flesh

Clay – a type of fine grained soil that holds water easily

Compost – a mixture of various decaying organic matter used to fertilize and add nutrients to soil

Consumer – an organism that eats other organisms to get energy

Constraint – limitation or restriction

Decomposer – an organism, such as fungus or bacteria, that gets its energy from breaking down dead plants and animals and recycles nutrients in an ecosystem

Duration – how long something lasts

Ecosystem – living and nonliving things interacting in the same environment

Entrepreneur – someone who owns a business to make a profit

Food chain – a way to trace the sun’s energy in an ecosystem from producer to consumers

Food web – interconnected food chains in an ecosystem

Germinate – when a seed begins to sprout

Herbivore – an animal that eats only plants

Intensity – the measure of how intense something is (ex. Brightness of a light)

Interdependence – how organisms depend on one another and interact in an ecosystem

Irrigation – watering of land

Loam – a fertile type of soil containing clay, sand, and humus

Nutrients – a substance that provide nourishment for growth

Organic matter – material from the remains of dead plants and animals, such as dead leaves

Organism – a living thing, such as plants, animals, or bacteria

Oxygen – a gas animals need to breath and plants “exhale”

pH – a measurement of how acidic or basic a substance is

Photoperiod – how long light is available

Photosynthesis – the process by which producers/plants make their own food using energy from the sun

Predator – an animal that kills/eat another animal

Prey – an animal that is killed/eaten by another animal

Producer – an organism that gets its own energy from the process of photosynthesis

Quantity – the amount of something

Radiation – a method of heat transfer through electromagnetic waves

Respiration – the process in which plants convert sugars into useable energy during photosynthesis

Sand - a loose, grainy soil, typically light brown with few nutrients

Silt – type of sediment, such as sand, carried by moving water

Soil – the upper layer of earth in which plants grow

Temperature – a measure of the average kinetic energy of the matter in an object

Transpiration – the process where plants absorb water through their roots and give off water vapor through the pores in their leaves