

# **EXHIBIT 8**

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# Starting A Rose Garden – Caring For Rose Bushes

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**Roses**

Roses are some of the most popular and beautiful flowering shrubs grown, but starting a rose garden may seem daunting to new gardeners. However, growing roses for beginners doesn't have to be a stressful endeavor. In fact, with proper [planting and care](#), nearly anyone can become a successful rose gardener. Read on for growing information on roses.



Image by bobkeenan

## Growing Information on Roses

When growing roses, it's important to choose a site receiving at least six hours of sun each day. Rose bushes must also be located in well-drained, fertile soil. Plant dormant roses in early spring (or [fall](#)). Potted plants can be planted any time between spring and fall, but preferably spring.

If you're [planting bare root roses](#), presoak them in water for at least 24 hours prior to placing them in the ground.

Both bare root and potted rose bushes need to be planted about

2 feet deep, with the hole large enough to accommodate the roots. Backfill the hole with soil, adding some [well-rotted manure](#) in with it and water thoroughly. Then mound up additional soil around the base of the plant. Note that this is not necessary for actively growing roses.

## How to Take Care of Roses

Caring for rose bushes is important to their overall health and vigor, especially when it comes to watering. Roses require at least an inch of water weekly throughout their growing season, beginning in spring or following spring planting. While overhead watering is suitable before the onset of new growth, it is often better to water these plants at the soil line using soaker hoses or similar means. Rose bushes are very susceptible to fungal diseases, such as [black spot](#) and [powdery mildew](#), especially when their foliage is kept too wet.

[Fertilizer for roses](#) should also be applied in spring, following the label instructions carefully. However, with the addition of well-rotted manure each spring, this is usually adequate. [Mulching your rose bush](#) will help retain moisture and may also offer some winter protection.

[Pruning](#) is another aspect to consider when caring for rose bushes. This often takes place once leaf buds appear in spring. Make cuts about 1/4 inch above the bud eyes and prune out any twiggy or unhealthy branches.

Starting a rose garden and knowing how to take care of roses shouldn't be intimidating. In fact, it's easier than you might think. Just give them what they need and before you know it, you'll be rewarded with beautiful blooms.

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# How to Grow Roses

Roses are easier to grow than you think. Follow these steps to get started.

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Photo by Dee Nash

Roses have a bad reputation.

They're less like rocker Joan Jett and more like Disney princesses. People think they're all sequins and tulle and no substance. Some gardeners no longer consider roses romantic, but instead, difficult and prissy.

It doesn't have to be this way. Roses are still the romantic flowers that once inspired poets' dreams. They are also shrubs that want to bloom for you. They just need a little extra love and support. Here are some simple steps to get your roses growing in good health:

## Place

Roses need full or nearly-full sun to produce more flowers and increase disease resistance.

## Plant

Place new roses in well-drained soil, amended with plenty of homemade or purchased organic compost. If you buy a potted rose, take it out of the plastic container and fluff up any compacted roots before planting. For bare root roses, soak them first in manure tea to rehydrate them after shipping. Then, make a cone of soil and spread bare roots over the cone. Replace the soil, planting roses at same height as surrounding area. Tamp down soil for good root contact. Water.

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## Water and Good Drainage

Roses need about an inch of water a week and good drainage to perform at their best. Try drip irrigation or soaker hoses instead of sprinklers to prevent disease.

## Prune

Before roses begin to leaf out in spring, prune them. Don't be afraid of pruning. Make sure tools are clean and sharp, and spray tools with alcohol between shrubs to stop disease spread. Remove any dead canes (stems) first. Look over the shrub and decide what canes you want to remain. If it's a shrub rose grown on its own roots, remove a third or even 1/2 of the top growth. Always prune toward outward facing buds to prevent canes from crossing over as they grow. With Hybrid Teas, remove all but four or five canes. On grafted roses, remove any suckers below the graft. Otherwise, the ugly rootstock rose will take over. Climbing roses shouldn't be pruned until after they've bloomed in spring.



Learn Tips for How to Prune Roses from a Master Rosarian 06:33

## Feed

When gardeners talk of feeding plants, they really mean feeding the soil. Fertile soil with good drainage makes for good plants. The old advice was to dig around each rose and feed them once a month throughout spring and summer. Who has time for that anymore? Instead, about a month before roses are budded out, work an organic fertilizer into the soil. Some rosarians use alfalfa pellets to improve fertility and soil texture. Spray roses with an organic, liquid fertilizer in summer, or pour this into the ground around the rose if it looks puny.

## Mulch

After feeding plants in spring, top them off with mulch like shredded oak leaves, pine straw, wood shavings or compost. Mulch helps moderate soil temperatures and moisture. Because organic mulch decays and becomes part of the soil, it will probably need refreshing before winter.

## Prevent Disease

Choose disease-resistant cultivars. Don't group plants too close together. Good airflow is essential. In fall, remove any dead leaves, but also remove any rose leaves with blackspot or other diseases throughout the season. Don't compost rose canes or leaves.

Watch out for Rose Rosette Disease (RRD), caused by the [Rose Rosette Virus](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/flowers/hgic2109.html) ([http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant\\_pests/flowers/hgic2109.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/flowers/hgic2109.html)).

Damage is showing up in many gardens and is disastrous to roses. There is no cure for RRD. Watch for witches' brooms and red foliage that looks feathery and never becomes green when mature. If you suspect you have RRD, call your cooperative extension service before taking action. They may want to positively identify whether you have RRD or herbicide damage from glyphosate or 2,4-D.

In spite of their sometimes bad reputations, roses are worthy of a place in your garden. There is nothing quite so poetic as a red, red rose. Grow one, and you'll see.

