



*A gardener and her*  
**Tidy Mess**

written and photographed by Teresa Byington



TERESA BYINGTON FELL IN LOVE WITH ROSES as a teenager and that love just grows and grows. A friend in high school shared home grown roses with her and opened her eyes to the true joy a rose can bring and to the possibility of having her own rose garden. She finds great joy in sharing roses with others whether in a vase or as a mentor to new gardeners. She is a great believer in the mentoring process. And is available to those needing help locally, via her blog [TheGardenDiary.com](http://TheGardenDiary.com) as well as on social media. She also makes herself available to garden clubs, master gardeners and those wanting to know more about roses.

Teresa's garden is a large cottage garden that weaves together her love of roses and their companions. Roses alongside annuals, herbs, shrubs, trees, perennials and a few veggies fill this garden that covers close to an acre. As a true plant lover, it is hard for her to say no to any plants. However, plant choices are often made on how well they compliment roses in the garden and in a vase.

In this garden it is not just the plants that catch your attention, there are fences, arbors, gates and a small potting shed/garden office (many built by Teresa's husband, Greg) that add support and additional cottage charm. Cottage charm often turns to jungle as the season progresses. Teresa often laughs as she thinks of something she read long ago--that English gardeners refer to their garden as their "tidy mess." Yes, often she looks out and thinks this is surely a LARGE "tidy mess." Regardless of the season, this gardener is truly in her happy place when she is caring for this large tidy mess.











Teresa shares her love of roses and her rose gardening experiences on her blog, [TheGardenDiary.com](http://TheGardenDiary.com), and she is also active on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Teresa also co-hosts the Rose Chat Podcast— the only show on the airways dedicated to growing roses with Chris VanCleave.

The need to communicate solid information on growing roses to the next generation is essential and Rose Chat helps to fill that need by providing solid rose advice, interesting guests and the latest news from the world of roses! They believe it's grass roots radio at its best.

You can find and listen to the Rose Chat Podcast at [rosechatpodcast.com](http://rosechatpodcast.com).

PAGE 58-59: My favorite time of the year is the spring explosion that happen just outside the potting shed door! PAGE 60: The lavender color of 'Poseidon' is a perfect edition to any spring garden color palette. PAGE 61: TOP LEFT: 'Falling in Love' TOP RIGHT: Music Box and Delphinium make beautiful music together. BOTTOM LEFT: 'Peggy Martin' BOTTOM RIGHT: A bucket of freshly picked roses are ready to be made into a bouquet. PAGE 62: Come through the garden gate banked with roses ('New Dawn', 'Roseaie de La Hay') and Etiole de Violette Clematis. LEFT: The RoseChat Podcast team, Chris VanCleave and Teresa Byington. ABOVE: 'Generous Gardener'