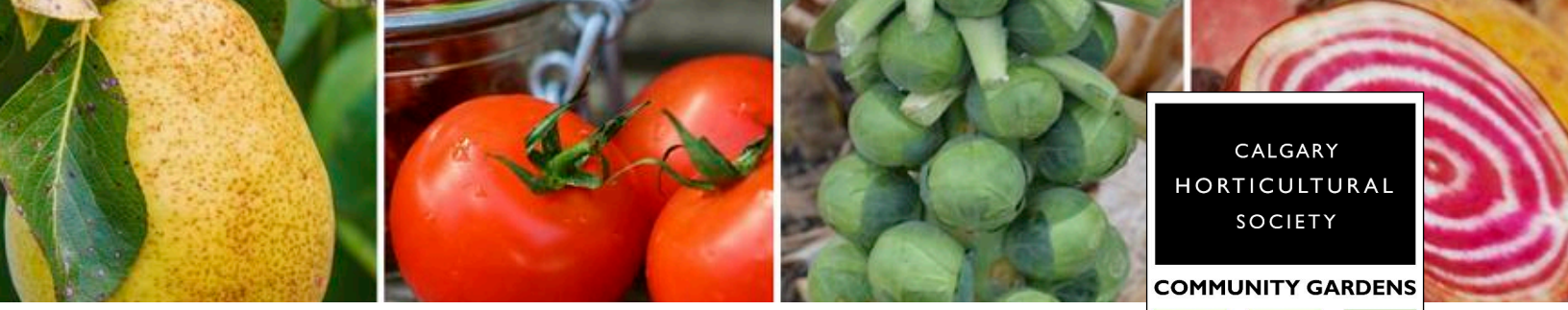

CALGARY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
COMMUNITY GARDENS

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Tomatoes are part of the nightshade family and originated in South America. When growing tomato plants in Calgary, it is best to buy plants already started or start your own plants indoors from seed in March.

Tomatoes love heat, therefore, wait until all danger of frost is past before putting outside (usually after the May long weekend).

Transplanting

When transplanting tomatoes, you should trim off the lower branches and leaves. This gives you a good stem to plant deep, as tomatoes develop hairs along their stems which, when in contact with soil, will grow into roots.

You can plant your tomatoes in a deep hole (in the ground or a larger pot) leaving the upper branches approximately 2.5 cm above the soil. This will ensure a strong root system.

Or, you can create a "trough" and lay the stem down, carefully keeping the top of the plant above the rim of the hole. Again, this will provide a strong root system for your plant.

When transplanting your plants, ensure you wet the soil in your pot to loosen it up tp provide an easier way to get the plant out. By also wetting the soil you are transplanting to, you will help reduce transplant shock. Water gently for the next two days.

TOMATOES TRANSPLANTING