

Scientists invent green-fingered robot gardener to help prune

Boffins have invented a robot that can garden. The green-fingered device – known as Trimbot – uses cameras and 3D mapping technology to find its way around gardens.

The robot is battery-powered and has a cutting tool which it uses to prune roses and trim bushes by pinpointing the exact part of the plant stem which needs to be cut.

Trimbot has five pairs of cameras and a flexible robotic arm linked to an automated Bosch lawnmower.

It was created at Edinburgh University using the latest robotics technologies and 3D computer vision techniques.

Scientists have said the robot gardener could help people with mobility problems tend their gardens.

The robot is pre-programmed with a rough outline of a garden to help navigation, and data captured by the 3D cameras enables it to perform specific tasks.



The Trimbot. Picture: PA.

It uses algorithms to compare overgrown bushes with ideal final shapes as it trims.

Professor Bob Fisher, of the university's School of Informatics, who co-ordinated the project, said: "Getting the robot to work reliably in a real garden was a major feat of engineering."