

Gardening robot

Scientists have created a green-fingered robot that can prune roses and trim bushes, making light work of gardening chores.

Trimbot uses mapping technology to find its way around the garden and performs horticultural tasks with its advanced cutting tools.

Developers fitted five pairs of cameras and a flexible robotic arm to an automated lawnmower, made by electronics company Bosch.

They created algorithms that enable the robot to compare overgrown bushes with ideal final shapes as it trims, and it can prune roses by pinpointing the exact part of each plant's stem that should be cut.

The team behind the Trimbot project, co-ordinated by University of Edinburgh researchers, said prototypes could be used to maintain communal green spaces, support farmers and help people with mobility issues tend their gardens.

