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Growerbot turns gardening into a science

July 23, 2012 By Brian Benchoff 18 Comments



A backyard vegetable garden can be a hit-or-miss game. You're really not sure if your crops are getting enough sun, shade, or water until it's time for harvest and you see the results of a season of hard work. Growerbot, a hardware project by [Luke] that's up on Kickstarter now, hopes to change that. This box will pull down how much sun and water your crops should get, and is smart enough to correct any deficiencies.

On board the Growerbot is a soil moisture sensor, light, temperature, and humidity sensors, as well as WiFi connectivity and a few relays to run pumps and turn on grow lights. The idea is to learn from mistakes and achieve optimal growth for everything connected to the Growerbot. If you're trying to grow some heirloom tomatoes in the midwest, you can go online and get the growth profile for your area and precisely control environmental variables for the perfect crop.

As of now, there are settings for in-ground gardens, raised beds, and hydroponic setups. There's not much in the way of ideal growing conditions aside from what is available from the USDA, but once Growerbot is released we expect the data to start flowing in.

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