



Get Tech Savvy in your Garden

Technology and landscapes: The two terms may seem diametrically opposed. When we consider our landscape, we tend to think of escaping the indoors (and the technology continuously surrounding us inside) in to the tranquillity of nature. Technology has evolved to a point where it can make our lives much easier. Likewise in landscaping, technology can work in cohesively with your outdoor space to enhance your enjoyment and simplify your experience.



by Goom

Consider the following advantages of these technologies in your garden:

- **Louvres:** these can be wifi controlled. You can control your louvres from afar at the press of a button to accommodate changes in weather- and we all know how changeable the weather can be at this time of the year! Some louvres have rain sensors built in, and will close at the slightest detection of rain, which protects your investment in your outdoor furniture.
- **Irrigation:** Timers to switch on your irrigation have been around for years but were one of the first examples of technology helping maintain your garden. What a revelation it was that your garden would stay watered at the optimal time of day without you actually having to remember to get up and turn the hose on! Things have evolved far beyond this now. Smart sprinklers and irrigation controllers draw on data from sensors, weather forecasts and plant care information and can be controlled through an app on your phone or laptop. Ever been away on holiday, then realise its pouring back home and your irrigation system is still on and wasting water? Now it's as easy as turning your phone on to turn it off- from anywhere in the world!
- **Security:** Technology allows your property to be kept far more secure. This can include controlled gates, pin pads, cameras to protect your property, alarms and security lighting. With the touch of a button on your phone, your gate can be opened in perfect time for you to drive right in. (Don't worry, the gates still have an access button if electricity cuts out or your phone battery dies).

- **Lighting and Sound:** Outdoor lighting can be controlled via an app on your phone or ipad or by remote. This could include a dimmer control to set the ambience in your landscape at night. There is an enormous range of robust and weather resistant outdoor speakers available which can be discreetly installed appropriate to your landscape- music can be piped wherever you like in the outdoors by a quick swipe on your screen.
- **Identification:** Plant ID & pest ID garden apps are available which can help you determine which pests and plants are in your garden. An example is gardenanswers which instantly identifies over 20,000 plant species- a great way to avoid mistaking precious plants for weeds in a gardening frenzy! As these apps build up their catalogue and identification technology they will become more and more accurate.
- **Planning:** Farmbot is an open source technology which runs your vege garden for you. Through the app you can graphically design the placement of your plants and their needs, then farmbot will take everything from there, from planting the seeds in your chosen layout, watering each plant to its programmed requirements to weeding around each plant. It also provides you with real time data on your garden and the weather that impacts it. You can even take this little robot off the grid with solar power and rain collection systems!

The team at Goom Landscapes are available to discuss the innovative ways in which technology can enhance your enjoyment of your outdoor space.

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