

Growerbot Upgrades Garduino

By [Dale Dougherty](#) Posted August 6th, 2012 6:31 pm Category [Fun & Games](#), [Gardening](#), [Home](#) [View Comments](#)

In MAKE Volume 18, we published Luke Iseman's [Garduino](#) project. I was always fond of the project because I wanted to find ways to monitor water and light in a greenhouse. In truth, the project was a bit crude. Now Luke, who I met through Maker Faire Austin and has since moved from Austin, TX to San Francisco, has a Kickstarter project to develop an upgrade to Garduino called [Growerbot](#). Growerbot is "way more user friendly," says Luke.



Growerbot is described on Kickstarter as a “social gardening assistant.” Its new features include:

- a built-in-display, enclosure, and everything else you’d expect from an actual product
- better sensors: collecting data on specific parts of the light spectrum, accurate humidity, etc.
- wifi streaming of plant data.

Luke’s eventual goal for Growerbot, he says, is “to gamify gardening.” “Growerbot will help you grow food in the real world while entertaining your virtual friends with updates from your garden,” he writes on his Kickstarter page. He’s got two backers at \$880 for whom he promises to supply “Growerbot Pro.” With 39 backers so far, he’s already exceeded his \$5,000 goal with 4 days left.

I’m not sure gardening needs gamification. What I’d like is affordable technology for monitoring and control of gardens and small scale farms that also connects them to the Internet.



DALE DOUGHERTY

I’m founder of MAKE magazine and creator of Maker Faire. I am CEO of Maker Media, the company that produces MAKE, Maker Faire and Maker Shed. I am Chairman of the Maker Education Initiative (www.makered.org).

- - - - dale@makermedia.com

[My own blog](#) // [My blog on home gardening and cooking](#) // [Make Magazine](#) // [Maker Faire](#) // [Maker Education Initiative](#) // [@dalepd](#)
