

Extending Growers' Presence & Knowledge Through Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

It is quite possible for a grower to visit all of the plants in a small operation but in larger operations, the grower can not be everywhere at once and they need to rely on other staff to provide them with information about their crop. Yet each person's level of expertise and performance is different and most certainly, majority of the greenhouse workers don't have the same breadth of experience as the master grower. This cause inconsistency in collecting information and performing tasks. A missed spot in a row can turn into a disaster overnight and a delay in proper response might result in significant loss. Automation and machinery has always been part of agriculture from the dawn of time. We use tools to help us do our work better and be more consistent in our performance. Robots are essentially machines that can do certain tasks autonomously with little to no supervision from humans. We all have robots in our homes! A washing machine is a robot! And it uses predictive artificial intelligence and sensors to adjust the level water that is needed to wash a load. Thanks to Hollywood, there are many misconceptions about robots and AI that prevent farmers and growers to use and adopt them in their operation. In this talk, I am going to debunk some of these misconceptions.