

How about growing asparagus under photovoltaic panels

Can agrivoltaic systems be combined with solar PV?

Associating food crops and solar PV on the same land area which is referred as agrivoltaic systems (also denoted as Agrophotovoltaics, APV) (Dinesh and Pearce 2016; Santra et al. 2017) is among the most developing techniques in agriculture that attract significant researches attention in the past ten years (Fig. 1 a).

How to clean PV modules in agrivoltaic systems?

Cleaning of PV modules in agrivoltaic systems can be accomplished as a routine standard farming activity or performed using spray irrigation since PV arrays can act as irrigation or rainwater runoff channel which can then be directly used by crops.

Should agrivoltaics be limited to the types of crops people eat?

Barron-Gafford also points out that agrivoltaics need not be limited to the kinds of crops people eat. A farmer might let native grasses grow wild under the panels, providing food for livestock, which would also benefit from the shade. Or they might promote the growth of plants for native pollinators like bees.

Could agrivoltaic farming be a solution?

Agrivoltaic farming could be a solution to not just one but both of these problems. It uses the shaded space underneath solar panels to grow crops. This increases land-use efficiency, as it lets solar farms and agriculture share ground, rather than making them compete against one another.

Can agrivoltaic panels reduce water use?

In the new scientific (and literal) field of agrivoltaics, researchers are showing how panels can increase yields and reduce water use on a warming planet. If you buy something using links in our stories, we may earn a commission. This helps support our journalism. Learn more. Please also consider subscribing to WIRED

How agrivoltaic farming works?

Solar panels have to sometimes be elevated or suspended to allow plants to grow beneath them. Another option is putting them on the roofs of greenhouses. This allows enough light and rainwater to reach the crops, as well as providing access for farm machinery. Where is agrivoltaic farming already in use?

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