



# Photovoltaic panels harm crops

Could solar panels harm crop growth?

The team of eight researchers from Purdue University and Aarhus University in Denmark published their findings July 26, 2024, in *Cell Reports Sustainability*. Solar panel arrays -- photovoltaics -- normally cast permanent shadows on the ground throughout the day. Permanent shadow in a farm field would harm crop growth.

Can a photovoltaic farm improve crop yield?

The experimental photovoltaic farm at Purdue University's Agronomy Center for Research and Education in fields of soybean and corn. A Purdue University research team has demonstrated how to optimize yield in corn fields equipped with solar power arrays that throughout the day cast dynamic shadows across growing crops.

Does water scarcity affect the use of photovoltaic systems?

Although water scarcity directly influences the use of water in photovoltaic systems, there have been a low number of studies related to water scarcity around the world. Unfortunately, they are not reliable due to gaps and inconsistency in measurement.

Is photovoltaic technology a good option for conserving water supply?

Fthenakis and Kim (2010) reviewed the recent studies related to water usage in conventional and renewable energy type of technologies from a full-lifecycle standpoint taking into consideration water demand factors (withdrawal and consumption). They showed that moving to photovoltaic technology would be the best option for conserving water supply.

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