



# Solar photovoltaic panels do not grow grass

How do you keep grass under solar panels from growing too high?

Solar power plants provide many benefits but at least one perpetual challenge: How do you keep grass under the panels from growing too high? Mowers with traditional blades can damage equipment. Hand-held weed-whackers are a labor-intensive solution. Even the sheep tried at one small site behaved unreliably.

Can solar panels shade large crop lands?

And while the grass under your trampoline grows by itself, researchers like me in the field of solar photovoltaic technology -- made up of solar cells that convert sunlight directly into electricity -- have been working on shading large crop lands with solar panels-- on purpose.

Can flourishing vegetation boost solar energy production?

Flourishing vegetation can even boost energy production from solar panels. Warmer temperatures can reduce the efficiency with which PV cells convert sunlight into electricity. The ground shading and increased evaporation provided by a healthy layer of undergrowth can actually cool solar panels, increasing their energy output.

Can solar panels help grow crops under a trampoline?

And while the grass under your trampoline grows by itself, researchers in the field of -- made up of solar cells that convert sunlight directly into electricity -- have been working on shading large crop lands with solar panels-- on purpose. This practice of growing crops in the protected shadows of solar panels is called .

Do solar panels affect ground cover?

Standard practices of solar installation limit the impact on current ground cover, though conditions such as excessive rainfall during construction can increase soil disturbance. In cases where complete renovation of the vegetation is needed, it may be much more feasible to complete this prior to construction.

Can solar panels make plants grow bigger?

Barron-Gafford has found that a forestlike shading under solar panels elicits a physiological response from plants. To collect more light, their leaves grow bigger than they would if planted in an open field. He's seen this happen in basil, which would increase that crop's yield.



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