



# The reason why grass does not grow under photovoltaic panels

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 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 .

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 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.

Do solar panels affect plant physiology and morphology?

The differences in floral abundance, and delay in bloom timing that we observed among treatments in this experiment demonstrate that microclimates created by solar panel shading impact plant physiology and morphology, and shed light on how plants might respond to partial shade conditions under solar panels during times of drought.

Does solar panel shading affect soil temperature?

Our unreplicated climate observations showed that solar panel shading alters the solar radiation, soil temperature, soil moisture, and vapor pressure deficit across treatments.

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