

# What kind of trees should be planted under photovoltaic panels

Are solar panels good for fruit trees?

A winemaker in France has installed solar panels around grape vines. On a farm in southern Italy, solar panels offer valuable shade to fruit trees. Engineers in the Netherlands are testing the suitability of raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, black currants and blackberries at solar sites.

Can we grow crops under solar panels instead of trees?

Traditionally, agricultural and agroforestry systems used multilayered plantings by, for example, cultivating shade-tolerant crops such as coffee under bananas. Now, with growing demand for clean energy but a paucity of empty land, researchers are exploring how to grow crops under raised solar panels (photovoltaics) instead of trees.

Are vertically placed solar panels suitable for shade-intolerant crops?

Vertically placed Bifacial PV, transparent, and semitransparent tilted PVs can be suitable for shade-intolerant crops whereas opaque PVs are appropriate for shade-tolerant crops. The knowledge gap between various stakeholders such as solar PV researchers, agricultural researchers, and land users needs to be more rigorous.

How do you manage vegetation under a solar array?

To date, the most common plans for vegetation management under solar arrays are mechanical control (mowing), grazing sheep, and pollinator habitat, or a combination of these three. In almost every scenario a mixture of different plant species will provide more desirable outcomes than a monoculture.

Do solar panels help plants grow?

"So things like basil, lettuces, kale, Swiss chard -- all those things love having extra shade." The solar panels, she says, create a cool microclimate that helps these plants thrive. Other plants, like squash, need more sun than they can get beneath a panel. Solar panels also change the way water reaches plants, Jackson reports.

Are solar panels good for agrivoltaic crops?

Raspberries grown under solar panels in the Netherlands. Image courtesy of GroenLeven. Many agrivoltaic trials have reported promising results. For example, a project in southern France found that grapes grown under solar panels needed less irrigation and were of higher quality.

The pollinator plants seeded within the array area must be able to tolerate some shading. Albedo effect. Ideally, the seed mixture that goes under the panels will reflect more sunlight from the ground up, known as the albedo ...

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