

# Can photovoltaic panels be hung on orchards



## Overview

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A small experimental apple orchard at Cornell's Hudson Valley Research Laboratory may soon be topped by solar panels - which would not only track the sun to capture energy but provide a warm canopy on cooler spring days and shade the trees from excessive heat. Solar panels hang over an apple orchard in Europe. 4 by Washington State University, identified 87,000 acres suitable statewide for agrivoltaics, the dual use of land for producing food and . MSU researchers test a new model for Michigan agriculture A farmer harvests alfalfa beneath a row of solar panels in a dual-use field. The agrivoltaics system allows for both crop production and renewable energy generation. The research lab proposes to install a . Can photovoltaic panels be hung on orchards Can photovoltaic panels be hung on orchards When you orient a solar panel in the direction that gets maximum sunlight exposure, you are maximizing its power output and efficiency.

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### WSU report suggests hanging solar panels over apple orchards

Solar panels over apple orchards could generate electricity without sacrificing farmland, according to a state-funded report. The study, released Nov. 4 by Washington State University,

### Report: Blending solar power into farms shows promise

A new report co-authored by WSU researchers concluded that Washington state could add solar panels to tens of thousands of acres of orchards and farms, making a significant dent in



### Farming under solar panels?

At the university's Hart Research and Extension Center, scientists have installed rows of solar panels above apple orchards to explore whether this dual-use model can boost farm viability

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### WSU Study Proposes Solar Panels



## Above Apple Orchards

The approach would be especially suitable for orchards and berry farms, with half of the identified acreage located in apple and other perennial fruit operations in central and eastern

## Protect the orchards while producing electricity

"A series of photovoltaic panels is placed above the trees. They can be one meter or 50 cm wide and protection nets are installed between them," explains Kurt Raffl.



## Solar panels soon may power, protect apple orchards

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## Dual-purpose solar panels tested in Wenatchee orchards

Already used in Europe, the panels operate above crops without taking up additional farmland. Researchers estimate that deploying these systems over 10,000 acres in Washington



## Solar panels soon may power and protect apple orchards

"Nobody in North America has ever covered an apple orchard with solar panels," said Jared Buono, director of the laboratory, located in Highland, New York. "This is all about farm viability."

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