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## Letter to Editor—Trees vs. Air Pollution

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## Letter to Editor—Trees vs. Air Pollution

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## Trees vs. air pollution

Re: " Trees' smog absorption finer than first beleaved," Oct. 22 news story.

Bruce Finley's article lauded trees for absorbing smog. Trees also mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But not all trees are equally beneficial: some species emit more volatile organic compounds than they absorb.

In urban environments, we need more restrictions to avoid negative impacts on those around us: e.g., wood burning or watering restrictions. Sunlight plays an increasing role in energy solutions - for solar energy and urban gardens. Trees that mature at over 70 feet can create shade pollution for neighbors up to three lots away. Several of the "right trees" for smog absorption are also those that mature at lower heights: apple, hawthorn, pear and peach.

Where we plant new trees in the city is also important. Branches of deciduous trees still block critical southern exposures catching the low winter sun. So, we should plant more trees, as long as they are the right trees in the right place.

K.K. DuVivier, Denver

The writer is an associate professor and director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.