

## Biologist recruiting insects

Come on, bug me! That's the message from University of Guelph environmental biologist Dr. Jack Alex, who is recruiting an army of insects to combat some weeds that are a nuisance to farmers.

Alex wants people to look for weeds that show signs of having been attacked by insects, bugs or disease. Then he'd like the weeds wrapped in newspaper and mailed to him at the university.

The weed will help him search for ways of controlling weeds in the fields without using pesticides. This is in line with the Ontario government's aim of reducing by half the use of farm chemicals by the year 2002, he says.

Alex believes one alternative is 'benign biological warfare'. This involves finding insects or disease-causing organisms that will attack specific weeds - but not crops - and artificially increasing the numbers of bugs to munch on the weeds.

Alex is particularly interested in four weeds that are a problem for Ontario growers of row crops such as corn, soybean, and white beans. The weeds are lambs' quarter, redroot pigweed, ragweed and velvetleaf.

Signs to look for in a diseased weed are rotting leaves, extensive blotching and other deformities, he says.

Canada has successfully controll-

ed other farm weeds through the cultivation of natural predators. For 30 years the Chrysolina beetle has helped control St. John's-wort, a weed resistant to many herbicides and harmful when eaten by livestock.

The beetle has greatly reduced the weed in parts of British Columbia and Ontario.

Alex's research is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Samples of weeds damaged by insects or disease can be sent to Dr. Jack Alex at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1.



BY BEING AN INFORMED CONSUMER, asking questions, and weighing options with your contractor, you can choose a heating system that's right for your specific needs. To locate the Carrier dealer nearest you, look in your telephone directory under "Heating" or "Air Conditioning" or call 1-800-CARRIER.

## Contractors can help in determining best heating system

Whether you're building a new house or improving an existing one, a reputable contractor will be glad to work with you to determine the best heating system for your home.

When should you purchase a new furnace or upgrade to a better system? Would a heat pump be a more economical alternative? A good contractor will help you make that decision based on a number of factors. These include your budget, your lifestyle, the size of your home, the degree of comfort desired and local utility rates.

### INVEST IN QUALITY

Cost is only one factor to consider. Choosing the most inexpensive model may appear at first to be the smartest choice, but it may cost you more money in the long run in higher utility bills. Investing in a better furnace or heat pump now will pay off in energy savings down the road. Your contractor can estimate the payback on a new heating unit by comparing the utility savings you can expect from a more efficient system and the initial cost of the equipment.

### OLD FURNACES WASTE MONEY

Older gas furnaces, even those that seem to be working well, usually have one thing in common: They're inefficient. Typically, less than 65 per cent of the fuel you pay for is turned into heat for your home. Many old furnaces were less than 50 per cent efficient when new. Years of wear, dirt, and heat exchanger corrosion can combine to make these older units even less efficient.

Ask your contractor about the new high-efficiency furnaces that operate at significantly more cost-effective levels than models manufactured eight or more years ago.

For instance, Carrier, the world's largest manufacturer of heating and cooling equipment, offers high-efficiency gas furnaces with Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings up to 96.6 per cent. In addition, one of the models, the Weather-maker SXi Infinity "smart" gas furnace, saves on electricity as well as gas for extra utility savings.

Inquire about variable speed. This new technology allows a furnace to maintain the desired temperature

without constantly cycling on and off. This not only means dramatic energy savings but also much quieter furnace operation.

### SMALLER MAY BE BETTER

Sizing the equipment to the requirements of your home is important when choose a heating system. Big is not necessarily better. If the unit is too big for the space it must heat, it will not operate efficiently, and your heating needs would be better and more economically satisfied by a smaller furnace.

An option for very small homes and apartments is a mini-sized furnace such as Carrier's Crusader gas furnace. Only 40 inches tall, it fits into closets and other tight spaces.

Adding an electric heat pump to an oil or gas furnace may further increase your energy savings. The heat pump provides summer cooling plus an alternative heating method in winter. By analyzing local utility rates and your heating requirements, your contractor can help you decide if a heat pump is the way to go.

Ask your contractor about the new zoned temperature control systems. Carrier's Home Zone system automatically keeps every room at a comfortable temperature according to pre-set instructions.

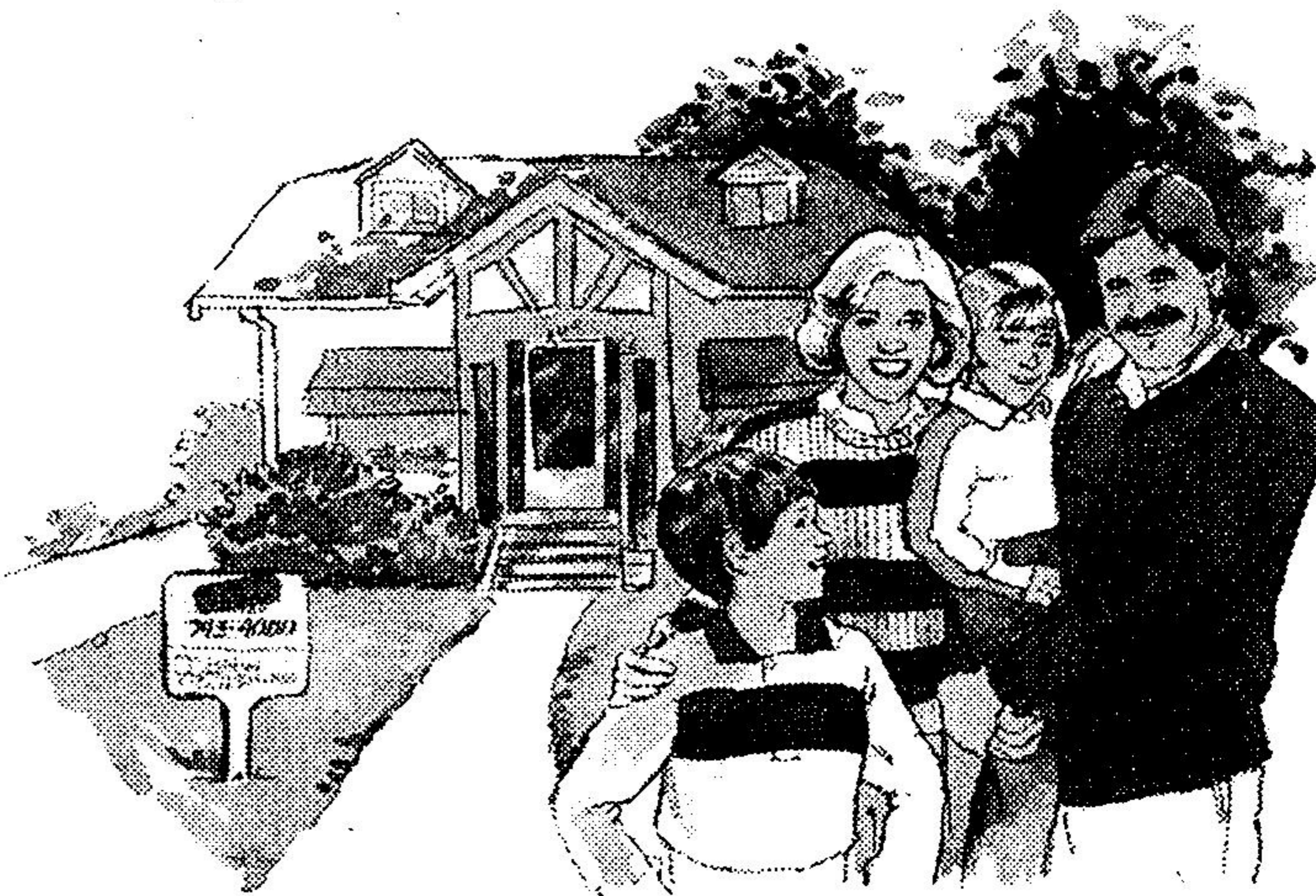
The homeowner can easily program Home Zone thermostats to fit the family's lifestyle so that occupied rooms are heated and the temperature is set back in unoccupied rooms. An added benefit is the energy savings: You're not paying to fully heat those parts of the house which are not occupied.

### ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

By being an informed consumer, asking questions and weighing options with your contractor, you can choose a heating system that's right for your specific needs. A reputable contractor will be happy to work with you on your initial purchase and to provide continued service and maintenance.

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