

Collecting That Hard Earned Dollar

By HANK HARVEY, JR. Arborist Rutledge, Pennsylvania

AS UNFAIR as it seems, the hardest part of some jobs is not doing the work, it's getting paid for it. Certainly nothing can put a businessman on the defensive like having money overdue to him. This is especially true for the service contractor who has nothing tangible to repossess and thus very little recourse for non-payment.

It should be pointed out that delinquent accounts usually make up only a small number in most service operations. Most people are anxious to pay for services rendered. It is the exceptions about which this article is concerned.

The best advice in these few cases might be to take positive steps which would preclude, or at least reduce, the possibility of your getting into such a situation in the first place.

How

Well, for starters, you should be careful with whom you deal, especially on a verbal contract. (I've found that many people fear or resent a written contract as such. One way to get past this psychological barrier is to have yours called an agreement or a work order or some other less offensive name.)

If you must use a verbal contract, at least write up the specifications for the job and make sure your customer has a copy-before you start the job, to refer to later if there is any misunderstanding. Your printed estimate or job order form should have printed on it Payment Due Upon Completion, Terms: Cash, or something similar which will protect you from the "slow-pays."

There is no sure way to spot a "No-Pay" or "Slow-Pay in advance, but there are a few good indicators:

Does the party you are bidding for actually own the property? I have experienced cases where a tennant, fed up with unsatisfactory conditions, decided to contract out work expecting the landlord to pay for it. In such a case, the tenant assumes no risk . . . it's not his place. The landlord won't pay, he didn't contract for the work. Who then is the poor contractor supposed to collect from?

Another area where extreme care is in order is that of doing subcontract work for larger contractors. Often the prime contractor on a large job will intentionally use subcontractors to avoid taking risks (continued on page 88)

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1973 SUPPLIERS GUIDE AND EQUIPMENT DIRECTORY

1972 ARTICLE INDEX

MINNEAPOLIS

As a special service to readers, WEEDS TREES AND TURF presents the 1973 Suppliers Guide and Equipment Directory. This annual directory and guide has been thoroughly updated. Chemical and equipment manufacturers are now listed two ways, name of company and products manufactured, and product groupings and companies manufacturing those products.

The "Green Industry" is dynamic.

New products and new additions to product lines are constantly changing. Consequently, omissions of manufacturers and/or products are unavoidable. Your comments and suggestions are invited to help improve future editions.

Following the directory is an index to the articles that appeared in the 12 issues of WEEDS TREES AND TURF in 1972. An author index is listed at the end. CHEMICAL KEY: Manufacturer (M); Formulator (F); Distributor (D).

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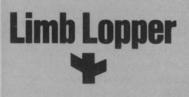
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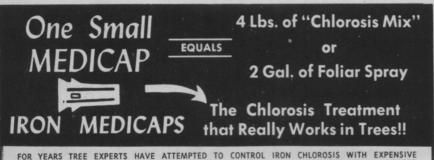
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