



IN THE DIRT / PLANT FIELD GUIDE

The Right Plant the Right Place

A large, solid orange circle is positioned on the right side of the page. Several thin, white, concentric elliptical lines overlap the circle and extend towards the left, creating a sense of motion or a stylized orbit.

Choose plants that fit your property.

A practical guide to reading your site, planning for mature growth,
and creating a planting that works through the seasons.

Keith Morris

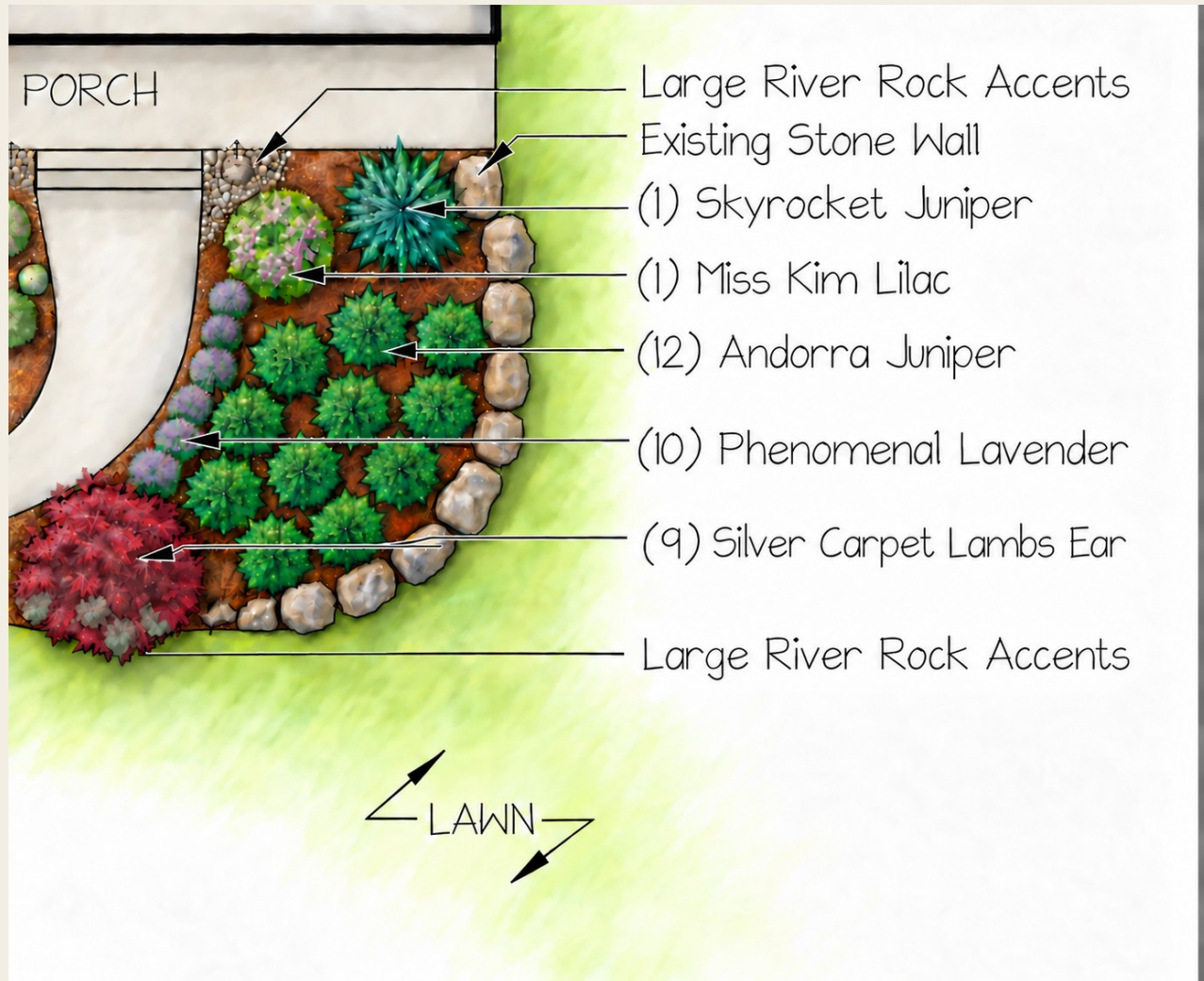
Landscape designer and author of *Thirty Years in the Dirt*

Start with the place. Give each plant room to grow.

Includes an example planting plan, seasonal plant schedules,
and a worksheet to take to the nursery.

Example planting plan

A front entrance planting that combines upright and spreading evergreens, a flowering shrub, a Japanese maple, and low perennials beside a curved walkway.



Example planting plan supplied by Keith Morris.

Look at the different plant roles

Skyrocket juniper adds an upright accent. The spreading Andorra junipers provide a low evergreen layer. Miss Kim lilac adds seasonal flowers and fragrance, while the Crimson Queen Japanese maple creates a focal point. Lavender and lambs ear bring finer texture along the planting edge.

Check the growing conditions

Junipers, lavender, and lambs ear need good drainage. The maple benefits from a sheltered position and protection from harsh afternoon exposure. Check the light, drainage, and available space rather than assuming the whole bed has identical conditions.



Plant schedule for perennials

This excerpt shows lavender and lambs ear in the lower planting layer. No ornamental grasses are identified in this excerpt. Lavender sizes are in feet; Silver Carpet sizes are in inches.

Plant and quantity	Mature size	Seasonal attributes
10 Phenomenal lavender Lavandula × intermedia 'Niko' PHENOMENAL Woody perennial	2–3 H 2–3 W	Spring Aromatic silver-green foliage. Summer Fragrant lavender-purple flower spikes. Fall Foliage remains attractive in suitable conditions. Winter May retain foliage; appearance depends on exposure and weather.
9 Silver Carpet lambs ear Stachys byzantina 'Silver Carpet' Herbaceous perennial	6–8 in H 18–30 in W	Spring and summer Soft, fuzzy silver foliage forms a low mat; this cultivar rarely flowers. Fall Silver foliage continues. Winter Semi-evergreen in mild conditions; foliage can decline in wet or cold weather.

Keep the foliage as part of the design

Lavender adds fragrance and flowering stems, while lambs ear provides a softer leaf texture. Together they show how a planting can have interest beyond flower color. Allow space for growth along the walkway rather than letting plants narrow the usable path.

Silver Carpet lambs ear

Silver Carpet is grown for its dense, silvery foliage and rarely produces flowers. Its low, spreading habit works as an edging or groundcover. Mature dimensions vary with site conditions; allow room for the mat to spread.

Stone features

Large river rock accents and the existing stone wall provide year-round texture and define the planting edge. The plan does not specify rock quantities or sizes, so they are listed as nonplant features rather than plant schedule entries.