



COLORADO FRUIT
PICKED AT
ITS PEAK
OF FLAVOR



FIND OUR FRUIT AT
FARMER'S MARKETS
PARTICIPATING GROCERS
CSA SHARES
ONLINE
RESTAURANTS



HOTCHKISS, COLORADO www.ELAFAMILYFARMS.COM PHONE 970-872-3488

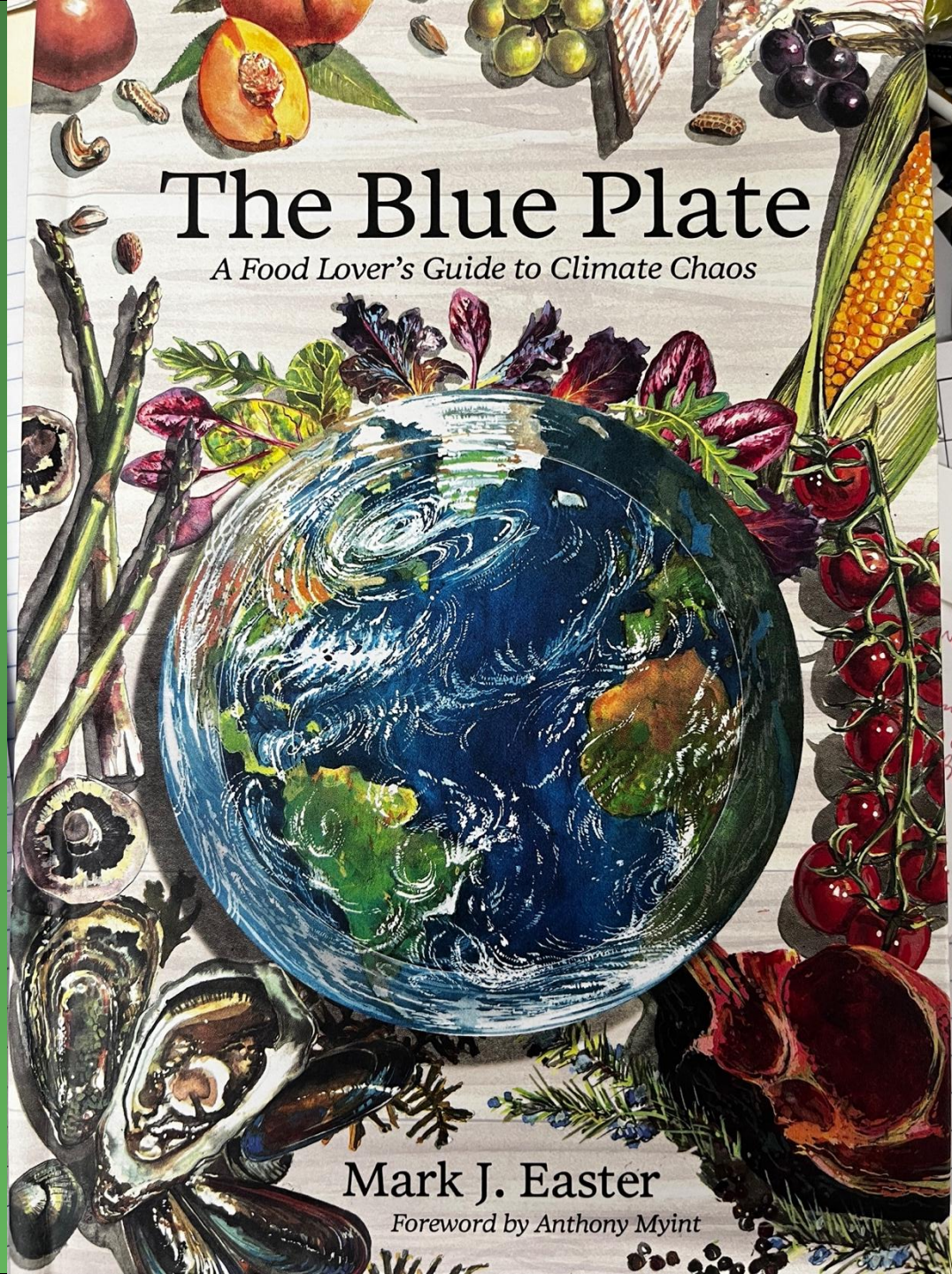
- Fourth generation Colorado fruit growers
- Started certified organic in 1994

80 acres of trees on 100 acres

About 35,000 trees of peaches,
pears, apples, plums and cherries

Five high tunnels for heirloom
tomatoes





The Blue Plate

A Food Lover's Guide to Climate Chaos

Mark J. Easter

Foreword by Anthony Myint

Steve's Peaches



To awaken in an orchard on a Rocky Mountain spring morning is a singular pleasure, even after just a few hours of sleep. Such vital experiences have a way of marking us, and though that emotional tattoo is still with me some years later, it never occurred to me at the time that future opportunities like that might someday vanish, and more importantly, that the glorious fruit from the orchard around me, and the carbon the orchard held, might one day disappear.

I'd arrived at Ela Family Farms the night before in a caravan with about thirty others, sated and sleepy after lingering at a local farm-to-table restaurant long after a sumptuous dinner. We donned headlamps and laid out tents and sleeping bags under the land's canopy. Now it was early morning, and the light slowly

Time vs. Money vs. Efficiency



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Crop

Perennial
Annual
Rotations
Cover Crop

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Utilities
Renewable power
Inputs

Water Supply

Gravity fed
Efficient application

Goals

Profit
Soil Building
Reduce off-farm inputs





Crop

Perennial

Annual

Cover Crop

Rotations



Water

Furrow/Flood

Impact
Sprinklers

Microsprinklers Drip

Efficiency

Uniformity

Filtration

Cost



Energy Use

Solar hot water

PV Electric Generation

Propane

Diesel



Soil Building

Carbon
Sequestration

Fertility

Biodiversity



Resiliency/Diversity

What can we get for free?
Reduce off-farm inputs

Protect beneficial insects to
control as many pests as
possible

Cover crops fix nitrogen and
reduce N purchases

Zero food waste





