

FEWS Tools for QGIS

Installation v3.3

September - 2025

FEWS NET provides a series of tools to help mitigate or prevent humanitarian crises. FEWS Tools is a powerful user-friendly set of tools for climate data analysis. This manual is intended for the installation of the FEWS Tools plugin for QGIS.

Contents

Installation	3
Introduction	3
1.1. System Requirements	3
1.2. Download FEWS tools plugin (All users)	3
1.3. Install the FEWS tools plugin	3
1.3.1. First time installation (New users).....	3
1.3.2. Upgrade (Current users).....	6
1.4. FAQ	7
Acknowledgements	8

Introduction

FEWS Tools for QGIS is updated regularly to fix bugs, improve performance, and refine workflows. This section explains how to **install the plugin for the first time** and how to **upgrade an existing installation** to the latest release. If you're new to FEWS Tools, follow the *First time installation*; if you already have the plugin, skip to the *Upgrade* Section.

For a video tutorial on how to install the plugin, visit <https://data.chc.ucsb.edu/people/diego/FEWS%20TOOLS/training%20material/English/FEWS%20TOOLS%20QGIS%20Installation.mp4>. Once the software is installed, a detailed explanation of the different functions of the FEWS tools can be found in the **help/view GeoCLIM Manual** pull-down menu or visit <https://devhelp.fews.net/en/tools/v3/introduction>

1.1. System Requirements

- Microsoft Windows Operating System (10 or newer versions)
- QGIS 3.34.3 or newer versions

1.2. Download FEWS tools plugin (All users)

Please download the latest version of the plugin from:
https://data.chc.ucsb.edu/people/diego/FEWS%20TOOLS/latest_version/fews_tools_v3_3_0.zip

1.3. Install the FEWS tools plugin

1.3.1. First time installation (New users)

- a. Open QGIS
- b. Go to *plugins* pull-down menu
- c. Select *Manage and Install Plugins*
- d. Select *Install from Zip*, see Figure 1
- e. Browse and select the *fews_tools.zip* file that you just downloaded
- f. Click on *Install Plugin* and follow the instructions, see Figure 1.

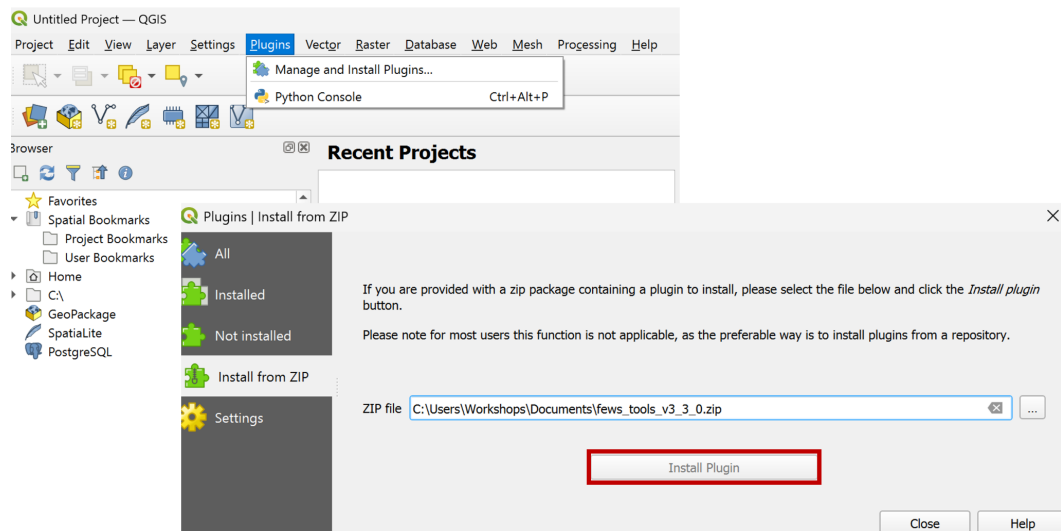


Figure 1 Install the plugin from zip file.

- g. Click OK/Yes to accept all warnings and prompts that follow, See Figure 1.a.

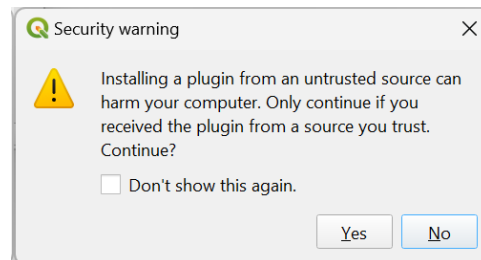


Figure 1.a confirm the creation of the workspace fevs_tools_WS.

- h. In QGIS, go to *Plugins* and ensure FEWS Tools is checked, See Figure 1.b.

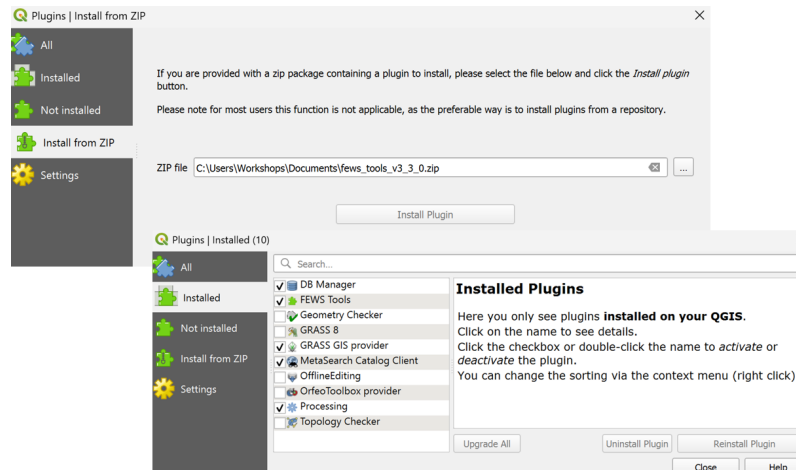


Figure 1.b Ensure that the FEWS tools plugin is active.

- i. If needed, restart QGIS. The *FEWS Tools* pull-down menu should appear in the QGIS main bar, see Figure 2.

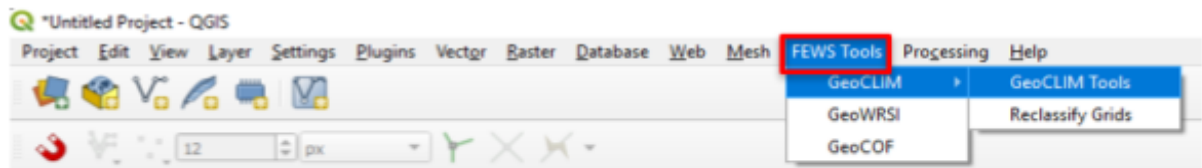


Figure 2 Once the plugin is installed the new pull-down menus 'FEWS Tools' appear on the main toolbar in QGIS.

- j. Click on the *FEWS Tools* menu.
- k. Select GeoCLIM/GeoCLIM Tools or GeoWRSI to activate the tool bars.

Once the GeoCLIM tools are activated, a menu bar will appear with several selections as shown in the red bounding box on Figure 3.



Figure 3 Select the GeoCLIM Tools to see the function available.

At this point the tool is ready to use, see the user's manual for further instructions.

1.3.1.1. How to move the workspace

By default the FEWS TOOLS plugin is installed in C:\Users\[user]\Documents\fews_tools_WS. In some cases, it may be necessary to move the default folder to a drive with more available disk space or for other reasons.

To move the workspace:

1. Click workspace setting (Yellow folder in Figure 3)
2. Browse to select a new folder location for the workspace. Click ok, then click yes to confirm.

NOTE: You don't need to pre-create the *fews_tools_WS* folder. Simply select the destination drive (or parent folder), and FEWS Tools will **automatically create *fews_tools_WS*** there and set it as the workspace.

1.3.2. Upgrade (Current users)

Goal: Install a new version while preserving your datasets, regions, and preferences.

If you are already using the plugin and are installing an upgrade, please keep in mind that all the datasets and region definitions that you have created are saved on the database file **fewstools.sqlite**, in the fews_tools directory in C:\Users\[name]\AppData\Roaming\QGIS\QGIS3\profiles\default\python\plugins\fews_tools (see Figure 4).

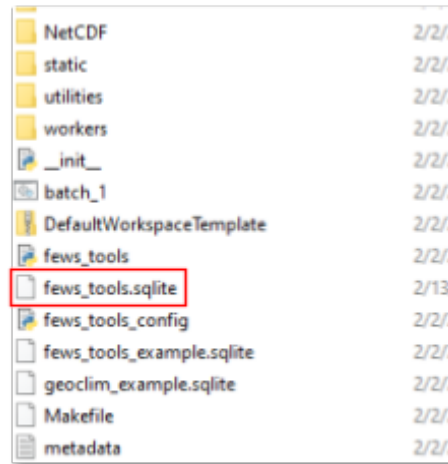


Figure 4 Backup the fewstools.sqlite file to keep all your settings.

Before installing a new version of the plugin. Make a copy of the fewstools.sqlite file in a separate directory. To install the new version, follow the steps below:

NOTE: Make sure to frequently backup the database file **fewstools.sqlite** which contains all your customized plugin settings, including datasets' definitions, regions, workspace paths, etc.

1. Uninstall the plugin, see Figure 5.
 - a. Go to QGIS tool find plugins/installed
 - b. Select FEWS Tools
 - c. Click on Uninstall plugin
2. Install the new version of the plugin as described in 1.3.1.
3. Replace the default fewstools.sqlite file in C:\Users\[name]\AppData\Roaming\QGIS\QGIS3\profiles\default\python\plugins\fews_tools with the one saved from the previous version.
4. Restart QGIS

NOTE: If you had already moved the workspace from the default to a new directory, before installing the new version, the path is corrected by replacing the fewstools.sqlite file. You do not have to move it again.

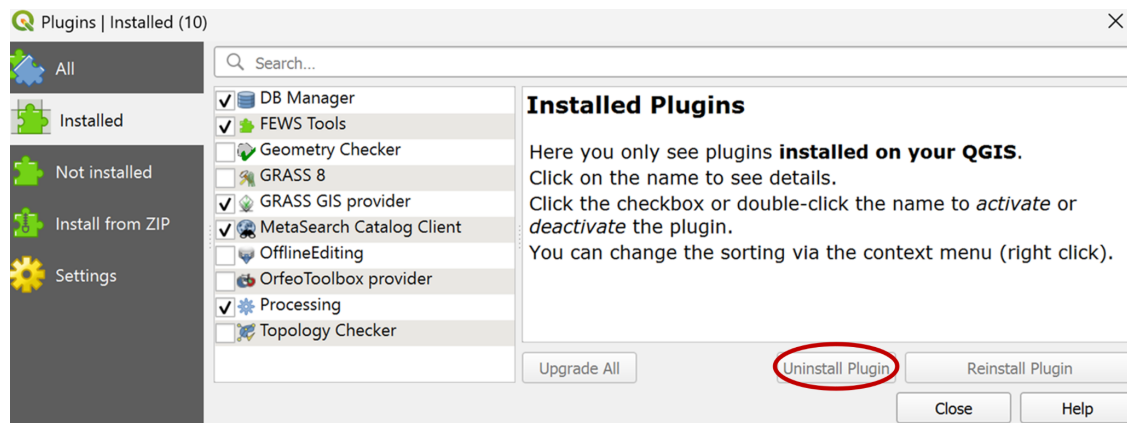


Figure 5 Uninstall all previous versions of the plugin before installing a new one.

1.4. FAQ

The FEWS Tools menu doesn't appear.

- In Plugins, ensure FEWS Tools is checked.
- Restart QGIS. If the issue persists, uninstall and reinstall from .zip.

Permission error during install.

- Close QGIS and reopen it "As Administrator".
- Ask IT for write permissions to your QGIS profile.

Plugin installed but my datasets/regions are missing.

- Verify you copied your backup fewstools.sqlite to the correct path (Section 1.3.2).

Acknowledgements

The FEWS tool including GeoCLIM/GeoWRSI development was supported by Tamuka Magadzire¹, Cheryl Holen², Minxuan Sun², Austin Christianson², Karthik Vanumamalai², and Joshua Sickmeyer² in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research, and Economic Development (PREPARED) Project, USAID FEWS NET, and Global Climate Change activities, in consultation with Chris Funk^{1,3}, Greg Husak¹, Gilbert Ouma⁴, Ismael Mulama Lutta⁵, and Gideon Galu¹. The documentation was developed by Diego Pedreros³, Tamuka Magadzire¹ with additional support from Claudia J. Young², Libby White¹, Juliet Way-Henthorne¹, and Mario Rodriguez¹. Project oversight for the development of GeoCLIM was provided by James Verdin⁶, Chris Funk^{1,3}, and James Rowland³.

1. Climate Hazards Center (CHC), University of California, Santa Barbara
2. Contractor for United States Geological Survey (USGS), EROS Center
3. United States Geological Survey (USGS), EROS Center
4. University of Nairobi, Kenya
5. IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC)
6. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)