



Thatched **Roofs** in **Ireland**

The versatility of *Phragmites australis*(Common Reed, Water Reed)



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Thatch roofed structure on the bog. Thatched by Mike Davies.



Dairy Cottage, Bonmahon, County Waterford. Thatched by Mike Davies & Andy Stevens.

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Thatch Cottage, County Wexford. Thatched by Mike Davies and Andy Stevens.



Thatch Cottage, County Wexford. Thatched by Mike Davies and Andy Stevens.

Thatch Cottages of Ireland.

The above four cottages were all thatched using *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed, Water Reed). On two of the cottages the method for affixing the reed to the roof was with screw-fixings. On the other two roofs a traditional method was used: Hazel Scallops were driven-in to an older base-coat of thatch with a wood mallet, the base-coat being many layers thick. The scallops, in turn, hold down a horizontal sway which itself secures the reeds to the roof. Can you guess which two were scalloped on?