Gardening Tips for October 2026

1. **POINSETTIAS**
   Rush and prune poinsettias – some say as low as 6-12 inches above ground. They will tolerate a hard prune. Freshens and thickens up plants. Remove all dead/crossing stems. (www.ferberpainting.com)
2. **NATIVES AND PHOSOPHORUS**
   If natives are stressed apply Seasol as a tonic – BUT it is not a fertiliser. Natives have low nutrient needs so use fertilisers with zero to low phosphorus. To avoid damage use specialist native fertilisers. (www.australianplantsonline.com.au)
3. **DAHLIAS**
   Now to December is time to plant dahlia tubers in SE Qld. (ignore southern state advice!). Gives them a chance to develop strong root systems before intense heat of Jan and Feb. Look for smaller flower size varieties – dinner plate types struggle in our heat. (www.greenygardener.com)
4. **WATER HUNGRY**
   Keep water up to shrubs such as gardenias, hydrangeas, and ixoras. They need water to put on their flower show. Use mulch to keep soil moist. (www.bunnings.com.au)
5. **PETUNIAS**
   A great summer flowerer for gardens or pots – need 6 hours of sun a day but extreme heat can stop them setting flowers. If in pots shift into semi-shade once too hot. (www.bunnings.com.au)