Pecan Orchard with and without cover

Pecan Orchard in El Paso, TX.
Soils without cover
- No earthworms
- Soil Temperature between 15 -20 degrees higher than with grass cover
- Very poor water-stable aggregate stability
- Crusting and very dry the top 2"
- Higher moisture tension as measured with tensiometer
- Very Soil Organic Matter (< 1%)
- Low infiltration rate
- No Habitat for beneficial insects
- Water ponding following irrigation
- High water loss due to evaporation and MUCH More poorer soil health

Pecan Orchard in El Paso, TX.
Soils with a grass cover:
- Presence of earthworms
- Soil Temperature between 15 -20 degrees lower than tilled soil
- Water-stable aggregates
- No crusting
- Lower moisture tension as measured with tensiometer
- Higher Soil Organic Matter
- Higher infiltration rate
- Habitat for beneficial insects
- No water ponding following irrigation
- reduced water loss due to evaporation and higher soil health
- better tolerance to salinity
- more drought tolerant

I thought earthworms did not like sandy soils?